

# THE DANGERS OF THE DIGITAL WORLD



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**According to a 2021 Common Sense Media survey, an estimated 88 % of 13- to 18-year-olds and 43% of 8- to 12-year-olds have smartphones.**

*Our children are increasingly  
on devices or online.*

So, what are they doing?

And what are they being  
subjected to?



# Explicit Material

A 2022 survey by Common Sense Media found the following:

73% of teens  
reported they  
have viewed  
pornography  
online.

54% have  
viewed it by  
the age of 13  
or younger.

13%  
before the  
age of 11

# Explicit Material

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**44%** of teenagers indicated that they had viewed explicit material intentionally, while **58%** indicated they had encountered pornography accidentally.



# Sexting

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Sexting involves the sharing of sexually explicit messages, photos, or videos via digital devices. It can include anything from suggestive texts to nude images.

# Sexting

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Teens – and even some pre-teens – are increasingly viewing the sharing of “nudes” as normal, especially in relationships.

# Sexting

A 2021 study on sexting among youth found these statistics:

19.3% had  
sent a sext

34.8% had  
received a  
sext

14.5% had  
forwarded  
a sext  
without  
context

Females  
receive  
more sexts  
than males

Older  
teens are  
more likely  
to send  
sexts

# Sexting

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**According to an analysis of text messages by parenting app Jiminy:**

- Over 40% of kids are exposed to sexting by age 14.
- **More than 1 in 10 eight-year-olds have been exposed to sexting.**
- 15.5% of eight-year-old girls are exposed to sexting, compared to 5.9% of boys the same age.
- By age 13, 24% of children were asked to send nude photos or requested them themselves.



# Re-sharing Sexting Materials

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**Between 9% and 20% of teens have re-shared someone else's nude pictures.**

**Those being shown someone else's nude pictures may be as high as 39%.**

# Leverage Or Protection

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Many students are holding onto nude images they have received as leverage or protection against that person in the event he/she threatens to reshare their images.

# Sextortion

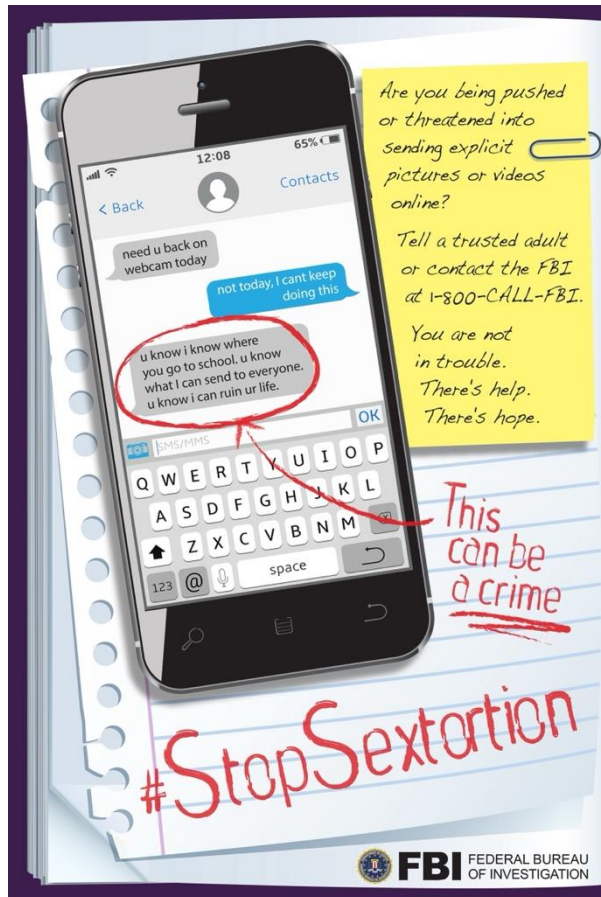
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Sextortion is a form of sexual exploitation. The offender uses coercion and threats to compel the victim to produce sexual images or videos engaging in sexual acts.

Sometimes the offender already possesses nude or sexual images of the victim and is threatening to release them if the victim will not do as the offender commands.

# Sextortion



Sextortion has become so widespread that the FBI has launched an awareness campaign.

<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/stop-sextortion-youth-face-risk-online-090319>



# Cyberbullying

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**Willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices.**

**<https://cyberbullying.org/what-is-cyberbullying>**

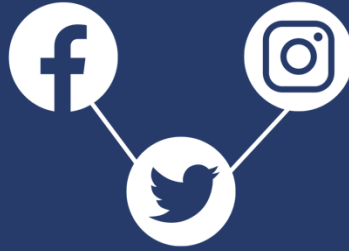
# How Are Kids Engaging In These Activities?

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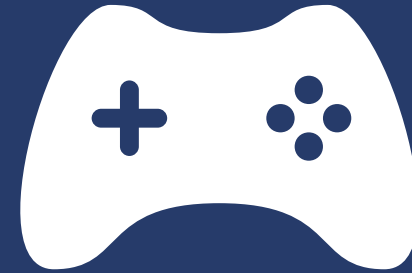
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**Text  
Messages**



**Various  
Apps**



**Gaming can function as a  
meeting point that moves  
toward apps with more  
communication ability.**

# Apps Used for Sexting



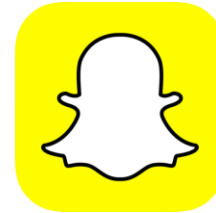
Instagram



Kik



WhatsApp



Snapchat



iMessage



Ask.fm



Cupid



Tinder

# Other Apps That Can Be Used for Such Purposes



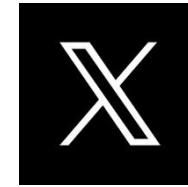
Discord



Yik Yak



TikTok



X/Twitter



Hoop



Roblox



Yarn



Bumble



Badoo



# Hiding Apps

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## Apps That Hide Other Apps

AppLock

Vaulty

HideU: Calculator Lock

Calculator+

## Phone Settings To Hide Apps

**Android “hide applications”  
feature:** App Drawer > Home >  
Settings > Hide Applications

**iPhone/iPad:** place in a  
misabeled folder

# Behaviors to Monitor

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**Browser history is deleted**



**Gaps in text messages**



**Hiding screen or turning  
phone off**



**Refusing to provide  
passwords**



**Redundant apps**

# Why are kids doing this?

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# Why do kids do this?

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- Opportunity
- Social pressure
- Brain development (decision-making and impulse control)
- Independence
- Hormones

# Possible Implications

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# Socially

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- Loss of Privacy: once the picture/message is sent, the sender no longer has control.
- Embarrassment or Shame
- Blackmail/sextortion
- Harassment/bullying
- Issues with future job or college applications

# School

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If these behaviors occur at school, or sometimes simply affect the school day, the student could be subject to school disciplinary procedures.

# Title IX

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Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment.

Some of these behaviors could constitute sexual harassment.

# Examples

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- Distributing inappropriate pictures of another student or an employee, whether actual or AI generated.
- Unwanted sexual comments and pursuit through the use of technology.
- Blackmailing/sextorting
- Subjecting other students to pornography

# Legal

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Minors in Oklahoma that transmit obscene material or child pornography via electronic media may be guilty of a misdemeanor or, in some cases, a felony.

*10a O.S. 2-8-221*

# What can parents do?

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# What can parents do?

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**Talk, talk,  
talk!!!**



**Educate**  
(dangers, consequences,  
safe practices)



**Parent  
Apps**

# Start the Conversation With Your Children

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- You should start the conversation with your children. Don't let anyone else take the lead.
- Use age-relevant examples
- Approach it with openness and understanding. Guilt and shame probably won't result in an honest conversation.
- Talk about healthy relationships (respect, self-worth, trust, etc.).
- What happens if the photo is re-shared? The images may be accessible forever.
- School and legal implications.



# HB 3958

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**During the 2024 legislative session, a bill was passed relating to electronic and digital communications between school employees and students.**

# Introduction

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Approved by Oklahoma legislators and signed by Gov. Kevin Stitt in spring of 2024.



Effective July 1, 2024

Requires school personnel to include a student's parent or guardian in any electronic or digital communications with an individual student, unless using a school-approved platform related to school and academics (***reasonable efforts* to use platform that allows automatic inclusion of parent/guardian**).



# Electronic/Digital Communication

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**Law applies to individual electronic/digital communications with a student, not mass notifications to classes, teams, grade levels or schools.**



# Electronic/Digital Communication

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**Electronic or digital communication includes, but is not limited to:**

- Emails
- Text Messages
- Social Media Messages
- Instant Messages
- Direct Messages
- Messages Sent Through Software Applications
- Any Other Electronic Digital Means of Communication



**It is unclear  
if phone  
calls are  
included.**

# School Personnel

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- Applies to all full- and part-time public school employees, including charter schools, career technology centers, student employees, and substitutes.
- In other words, all school employees must comply.

# School-Approved Platforms

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Law does not define “platform,” nor does it explain what it means for a platform to be “school-approved.”

At this time, we believe the safest bet is to have the platforms approved by the board.

# School-Approved Platforms

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Even email and content management platforms, such as **Gmail and Google Classroom**, should be added to the list of approved platforms.

# Exception

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The only exception listed in the law is an emergency.



**Although “emergency” is not defined.  
Parent(s)/guardian(s) must be notified as  
soon as possible.**

No other exceptions are listed.



**Parent permission cannot be used  
to circumvent the law.**

# Thank you for attending today's workshop!



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