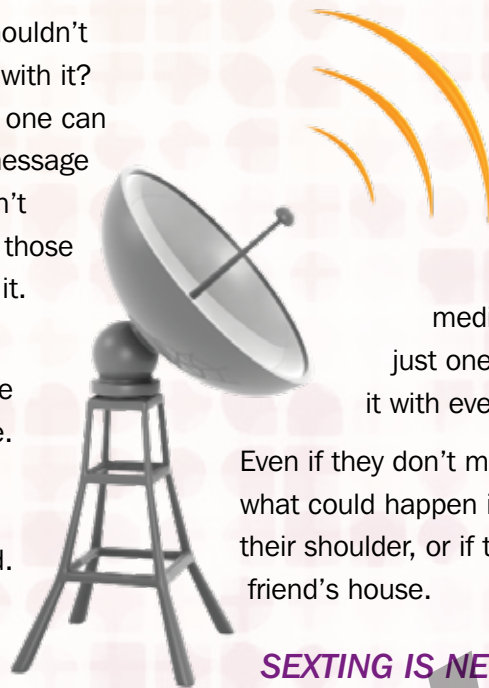


Sexting is sending sexual texts or photographs via a cell phone or email. Believe it or not, sexting is illegal but even if it weren't it'd still be a really bad idea.

It's your body and your phone, shouldn't you be able to do what you want with it? Yes and no. On the one hand, no one can stop you from sending any text message you want. On the other, if you don't think about the consequences of those messages you could really regret it.

Your cell phone is your own. You have freedom and privacy. But the messages you send aren't private. The moment you press send you might as well have sent that message to everyone in the world. No matter how well you think you know the person you're messaging they could share what you send.



They could share it on purpose just to be mean or to show off. They could share it because they get angry with you. They could post it on social media, a group text or send it to just one person... who could share it with everyone.

Even if they don't mean to send it, think about what could happen if someone is looking over their shoulder, or if they leave their phone at a friend's house.

SEXTING IS NEVER PRIVATE.



RESOURCES

Safe Kids' article on what to do:
<http://www.safekids.com/sexting-tips>

Advice for teens:
<http://www.cyberbullying.org/sexting-advice-teens>

in the know

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SEXTING

*think before
you send*



DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE A SEXT CASUALTY? NO ONE DOES.

Jesse Logan learned firsthand how easy it is to end up a sexting casualty. In love, Jesse sent a nude picture of herself to her then-boyfriend. When they had a fight and took a break he forwarded that picture to hundreds of her friends at school. Jesse was insulted and harassed everywhere she went. She started skipping school, literally afraid to go out. She went on television to tell her story with her face and voice distorted hoping that by sharing what happened to her that no one else would have to go through the same thing. It didn't do much to help her, though. Seeing no way out of her torment, Jesse took her own life.

Jesse's case is extreme but lots of other kids have learned that everything online is public, and can have serious consequences:

REMEMBER:
Sexting is NEVER private.

Cancel

OK

A teen couple sexted intimate images of each other to one another. The police got involved and the couple was charged with child pornography offenses.

A 15 year old girl sent nude images of herself on social media. She was charged with possessing, distributing and creating child pornography.

Three 13 year old girls took pictures of each other wearing bras and underwear. They were threatened with public lewdness and child pornography charges if they did not participate in afterschool programs and probation.

And there are many more tales just like those – too many to fit. All of these kids, if convicted, become registered sex offenders. For life.

child pornography

SAD FACTS

40% of teens and young adults say they have had a private sext passed on to them. 17% say they have been the passer, usually to more than one person. *Do Not Assume Your Sexts Will Be Private.*

You may think that if you send a sext message you're just joking around, but your recipient won't know it. They can think you want to hook up. They may share the sext or become aggressive toward you.

Nothing online is anonymous and it never dies. Everything you do online can be there forever, copied infinitely and shared by all.

IF YOU RECEIVE A SEXT...

The first thing you should do is delete it – if it's an image of a minor, even if you are a minor too, you can get in a lot of trouble. If it's an image of an adult then they can get in trouble for sharing it with you.

Tell the person who sent it that they made a mistake and they could get in trouble. Don't judge them, but ask them if they want to talk about their reasons for sexting.

If you're confused, talk to a school counselor or your parent or guardian. They may decide to talk with the other person's parents.

THE BIGGER PROBLEM

You're more than just a body. It's normal for a teen to think about sexuality and adult relationships, but don't let it get the better of you. If someone is worth sharing your nudity with, they're not the type of person who needs a digital record of it. They'd be concerned about having that around where it could get you in trouble.

Think before you send. Don't let a silly impulse mess you up for life.

no privacy



**Kids who sext, when convicted,
become registered sex offenders.
FOR LIFE.**

