

What You Can Do?

- If you receive a sext and you believe the person is underage, report it to the police.
- If you send a sext and it is being forwarded around contact the police.

Penalties

A young person charged with a sexting crime faces significantly different potential penalties, depending on whether the teenager is a juvenile or an adult. Juveniles are anyone under the age of 18, while those 18 and older are considered adults.

• Juvenile penalties

Juveniles are dealt with through the juvenile justice system, not the criminal justice system. In the juvenile justice system, the court has broad discretion in determining what kind of punishment is appropriate for a teenager who has committed a crime.

• Adult Penalties

A teenager charged as an adult faces significant penalties for any conviction of child pornography crime in Connecticut. Someone convicted of a child pornography crime can face up to 40 years in prison and up to \$15,000 in fines.

Once It's Sent You Can't Get It Back

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Sexting

**IT ISN'T JUST FOR
YOUR EYES ONLY!**



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What Is Sexting?

Sexting... is the sending of sexually explicit photos, images, text messages, or e-mails by using a cell phone or other mobile device.

It is the act of creating photos or videos of sexual acts or nudity (or writing sexually explicit messages) and transmitting those over electronic devices such as cell phones.

Various technological tools can be used to take and distribute sexually explicit photographs.

Sexting is defined by the U.S. court system as "an act of sending sexually explicit materials through mobile phones." The messages may be text, photo, or video.

Sexting Laws

• Possessing or Transmitting Child Pornography by a Minor.

In the state of Connecticut, it's a crime for anyone who is at least 13 and under the age of 18 to knowingly possess sexually explicit visual images of another child who is at least 13 and younger than 16, when the person depicted voluntarily transmitted those photos to the recipient through an electronic communication device, such as a cell phone. It is also a crime for someone at least 13 and younger than 16 to intentionally and voluntarily submit or transmit such image to another person who is at least 13 but under the age of 18.

• Possessing Child Pornography in the First Degree

Teenagers who are 18 or older who possess sexually explicit images of underage people in Connecticut could also be charged with possession of child pornography. Depending on the number of prohibited images in a person's possession, child pornography can be charged as a Class B, C, or D felony offense.

The Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today (PROTECT) Act of 2003 makes it illegal to produce, distribute, receive, or possess with intent to distribute any obscene visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Knowing possession of such material without intent to distribute is also a crime under the PROTECT Act.

• Federal Law

Federal law also criminalizes causing a minor to take part in sexually explicit conduct in order to visually depict that conduct. Parents who allow this behavior can also be prosecuted.

It's also a federal crime to use a computer to ship, transport, receive, distribute, or reproduce for distribution a depiction of a minor actually engaging in sexually explicit conduct, or any material that otherwise constitutes child pornography.

It's another federal crime to promote or solicit sexually explicit material involving a minor.

Facts

- Female have a few reasons for why they participate in sexting: 40% do it as a joke, 34% do it to feel sexy, and 12% feel pressured to do it.
- 17% of sexters share the messages they receive with others, and 55% of those share them with more than one person.
- Sending or receiving a sexually suggestive text or image under the age of 18 is considered child pornography and can result in criminal charges.
- 33% of college-age students (ages 18 to 24) have been involved in a form of nude sexting.
- In the U.S., 8 states have enacted bills to protect minors from sexting, and an additional 13 states have proposed bills to legislation.
- This is happening with and without a person's permission. Forwarding a sext without the original person's consent is against the law and falls under sexual exploitation.

Five Things To Know Before Pressing Send

1. Don't assume anything you send or post is going to remain private.
2. There is no changing your mind in cyberspace. Anything you send or post will never truly go away.
3. Don't give in to the pressure to make you do something that makes you feel uncomfortable, even in cyberspace.
4. Consider the recipient's reaction.
5. Nothing is truly anonymous.