

Teens:

- If a sexting photo arrives on your phone, DELETE IT. Do not send it to anyone else. That could be considered distributing child pornography. Secondly, talk to a parent or a trusted adult. Tell them the full story so they know how to support you and help you. Do not become upset if the adult decides to speak with the parents of the other teen(s) involved—that could be the best way to prevent you from getting into serious trouble.
- If the photo is from a friend or someone you know, someone, perhaps even you, needs to talk to that person to inform them that sexting is against the law. You have to approach it with the attitude that by confronting your friend, you are taking steps to keeping your friend from getting into serious trouble.
- If the photos continue to be sent to you by the same person, you might have to ask your parent or a trusted adult to speak to the friend's parents and, if necessary, school authorities and/or local law enforcement.

Phone Numbers

Prosecutor's Office
(Juvenile Division)
330-643-2943

Summit County Sheriff's Dept.
330-643-2111

Akron Police Dept.
(Juvenile Bureau)
330-375-2530

Juvenile Court
Sex Offenders Unit
330-643-5482

Terry Walton
330-643-2276

Jon Booher
330-643-2983

Al Kelly
330-643-2984

Michelle Neely
330-643-5360



Turning lives around one child at a time.

Information provided by C. Antoinette Clarke, Max Wohl Civil Liberties Center, Cleveland, OH.



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“Sexting”

An Informational Brochure About its Consequences

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Fax: 330.643-2894

www.co.summit.oh.us/JuvenileCourt/Index

“Sexting” refers to teens sharing nude photos via cell phone, but it’s happening on other devices and the Internet, too. The practice can have serious legal and psychological consequences, so – teens and adults – consider these tips:

It’s illegal: Don’t take or send nude or sexually suggestive photos of yourself or anyone else. Even if the photo is of you or you pass along someone else’s, you could be charged with producing or distributing child pornography. If you keep them on your phone or computer you could be charged with possession. If they are sent to someone in another state (and that happens rather often), it’s considered a felony offense. A felony offense could require registering as a sexual offender.

Non-legal consequences: There can be serious emotional damage from having intimate photos of yourself sent to a friend. There is no guarantee that he or she will not send it to everyone you know. Not only can those photos be sent locally, the photos can be distributed and archived online and would be available for anyone to view indefinitely.

Not just on phones: Sexting can be done on any media-sharing device or technology – including email and the Internet. Teens have been prosecuted for distribution of child pornography for emailing sexually explicit photos.

Support: Parents should talk to their children about sexting in a relaxed setting. Ask them what they know about it (they may not have heard the term). Express how you feel in a conversational, non-confrontational way. A two-way dialog can go a long way toward helping youth understand how to minimize the legal, social and emotional risks.

The bottom line: Stay alert when using digital media. People aren’t always who they seem to be, and sometimes they are capable of doing harmful things. Critical thinking about what is uploaded as well as downloaded is the best protection.

WHAT TO DO:

Parents:

- If your children have sent any nude pictures of themselves or others, make certain that they

stop immediately. Explain that they’re at risk of being charged with producing and distributing child pornography. If they’ve received a nude or sexually explicit photo, make sure they haven’t sent it to anyone else.

- The most important thing is to have good dialogue. Stay calm, be supportive and learn as much as you can about the situation. For example, see if it was impulsive behavior, a teen “romance” or a form of harassment.
- Consider talking to other teens and parents involved, based on what you’ve learned.
- Some experts advise that you report the photo to the local police, but consider that, while intending to protect your child, you could incriminate another—and possibly your own child. Talk to the other youth involved and their parents first. If malicious or criminal intent was at the core of this behavior, you may want to consult a lawyer, the police or other experts on the law in your jurisdiction, but be aware that child pornography charges could be filed against anyone involved.