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THE DANGERS OF TEEN SEXTING



Sexting is sending sexually explicit texts, photos or videos using a digital device.

Sexting can include:

- Text messages referring to sexual acts or proposing sex.
- Videos depicting sexual acts, simulated sex or nudity.
- Nude or seminude pictures or selfies.

WHY TEENS SEXT

- Peer pressure
- Pride in their appearance and the desire to show it off
- As a "joke" or to get attention
- The belief that it is a normal way of flirting or showing romantic interest
- To seem cool or become popular
- To increase intimacy in a long-distance relationship

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

- Images/videos could end up on social media or pornographic websites.
- Shared sexts can lead to public humiliation, bullying or blackmail.
- Public ridicule can harm a teen's self-image, resulting in depression or other mental health issues.
- There can be felony charges if the person is under 18.
- Risky online behavior of any kind can impact future college applications and job offers.

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TALKING WITH TEENS



- Educate teens about the personal and legal consequences of sexting to prevent them from making decisions they will later regret.
- Talk openly about personal boundaries, responsibility and dealing with peer pressure.

Encourage teens to:

- Block/report anyone who sends inappropriate content of themselves or others.
- Abstain from any bullying/harassing behavior.
- Avoid pressuring others to send/share sexual messages. It is wrong and can be considered abusive.
- Avoid exchanging messages with someone they do not know.

Is it abuse?

Sending unwanted or harassing sexts is considered a form of sexual violence.

- Tell the sender the behavior must stop.
- Do not answer calls from unknown callers and block unwanted numbers.
- Turn off your phone.
- Call **911** if the situation persists or if a crime is committed.

GETTING HELP

If you suspect someone is receiving threatening or abusive sexual messages, encourage them to get help.

National Sexual Assault Hotline
800-656-HOPE (4673) • https://hotline.rainn.org

www.loveisrespect.org
866-331-9474 • Text **loveis** to 22522

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