



WHAT IS SEXTING?

Sexting is the **creation or distribution** of a sexually explicit picture, video or text message. Sexts are sent by a cell phone, computer, or other device.



WHO SENDS SEXT MESSAGES?

Preteens & Teenagers. Girls & Boys.

1 in 5 teenagers have sent a sext.¹

48% of teenagers say they have received sext messages.¹



WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

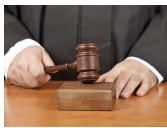
Personal

Embarrassment from the distribution of a sext can cause students to stop attending school; many students are also subject to blackmail.



Disciplinary

School consequences often include suspension or expulsion. Contact your school for more information.



Legal

Offenders can be prosecuted for child pornography – and be registered sex offenders for their entire life.



HOW CAN YOU HELP PREVENT SEXTING?

Parental Engagement

- Remind your child that Internet and cell phone use are a privilege, not a right.
- Set clear boundaries for Internet and cell phone use. Be ready to revoke privileges if boundaries are crossed.
- Be specific about acceptable communication.
- Don't give up your right to monitor your child's online activities.
- Help your child find appropriate ways to socialize.

Parental Education

- Get involved with your child's school.
- Attend PTA/PTO meetings and Parent/Teacher Conferences to stay abreast of your child's in-school activities.
- Contact your child's doctor for more information on Internet and digital safety or go online for more resources:

NetSmartz Workshop
Center for Safe & Responsible Internet Use

<http://www.netsmartz.org>
<http://cyberbully.org>

¹"Sex and Tech: Results from a Survey of Teens and Young Adults." *The National Campaign to Prevent Teen & Unplanned Pregnancy*, http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/sextech/PDF/SexTech_Summary.pdf