WHAT IS SEXTING?

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Sexting (sex texting) is the act of sending or receiving sexually explicit photos, messages, voicemails, instant messages, videos, snaps, etc., either via phone, computer, webcam or other device.

Studies have found that about 1 out of every 5 teens have sent sexually suggestive pictures. 51% of those who’ve sent a sext are teen girls who felt pressure from a guy compared to the 18% of teen boys who felt pressure from a girl.

WHY PEOPLE SEXT

Studies have shown that attention and peer pressure are lead motivators. When pressured, many teen girls say that they do it in fear of losing the relationship if they refuse to sext. Other times teens think it makes them look cool to have a nude picture of their girlfriend/boyfriend.

IMPACTS OF SEXTING ON TEENS

Social consequences such as humiliation or cyberbullying can damage a teen’s self-image and could possibly lead to depression, self-harm, and other mental health issues.

Sexually explicit photos or texts can be classified as child pornography. In some states, a teen could face felony charges for texting explicit photos or even have to register as a sex offender.

Photos and posts can continue to haunt someone for years to come. More than ever colleagues and employers check online profiles looking for indications of a candidate’s suitability or giant red flags about bad judgment and immaturity.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Talk to your kids about sexting by taking an informative and non-judgemental approach. Sexual peer pressure can be embarrassing and confusing. The more open they can be with you, the safer and healthier they’ll be. Warn them of the dangers and impacts of sexting. Explain that once an image or text is sent, it’s out there for-ev-er and will spread beyond the person who was meant to see it. Follow up this talk with action, like using parental controls such as Netsanity to put boundaries in place.

http://ikeepsafe.org/be-a-pro/relationships/whats-wrong-with-sexting/
http://verywell.com/what-are-the-consequences-of-sexting-460557
https://netsanity.net/the-sexting-talk/