

Sexting

Sexting is sending, uploading, receiving, or forwarding sexuality explicit photos, videos, or text. Photos or videos are often taken using camera phones or Web cams and passed along through cell phones and computers via the Internet.

Sexting may seem fun, flirty, and erotic. Most kids who send a sexually explicit message, photo, or video assume that it is private - *between them and the*

recipient. But that's not always the case and relationships do not always stay on good terms. One private photo can unknowingly be uploaded to Web sites and blogs such as Facebook or MySpace or forwarded for everyone to see. When this is done on purpose, it's called Cyberbullying.

Victims can be traumatized and humiliated, experience anxiety, depression, sleeping problems, eating disorders, self-injury, and even consider suicide.



People are sexting to?

- Entertain themselves or their boyfriends or girlfriends
- Get someone's attention, get noticed
- Gain popularity, fame
- Try to get a date or "hook-up"
- Brag
- Feel sexy, flirty
- Be funny, as a joke
- Prove commitment
- Hurt someone
- Get even



SHERIFF LEROY RAVENELL

A New Day in

Orangeburg County!

(803) 534-3550

www.orangeburgcounty.org/ocso

Facebook - OrangeburgCountySheriffsOffice

Twitter - @OburgSO

PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

Once you send or post anything over any electronic device (Internet, cell phone, etc.), it is no longer private. Your pictures or content can easily be passed around or viewed by others including your family and employers. Once you press the "send" button, you no longer have control over who sees it and there's no way to change your mind.

1. NEVER take or send (post) sexually suggestive content including nude or semi-nude photos of yourself or others.
2. THINK about the message you are sending if you considering sexting. You could be creating a reputation for yourself that you cannot escape.
3. CONSIDER the victim. Many suffer humiliation, depression, and some even attempt suicide.
4. Do not allow anyone to PRESSURE you into sexting.
5. REPORT any sexting you receive to a trusted adult. Do not delete the message.
6. Make it STOP. If you have asked someone to stop sending you sexually explicit photos or material, block their number from your cell phone or report them to your ISP - Internet Service Provider.



Don't Risk It!

Young people are known for being spontaneous often not giving much thought to the serious consequences associated with sexting.



If you take, send, possess, or forward a sexually explicit photo of someone underage, you could be charged with a **sex crime** (child porn) and will be registered as a **sex offender**. You may also lose friends, get kicked off sports teams, and lose educational opportunities, besides spending time in jail as a child predator.