

INFORMATION BULLETIN

SEXTING (PART 2)



SEXTING DEFINITION

The practice of sending or posting sexually explicit messages or photos electronically by cell phone or over the internet. Sexting has grown dramatically among young people across North America. These images can leave a permanent digital footprint.

MEDIASMARTS SURVEY 2014

Survey on media use by 5,463 Canadian students across the country from Grades 4 to 11. Found that 15% of the Grade 11 students surveyed had sent a sext and 36% of Grade 11 students said that they received one.

SOME REASONS FOR SEXTING

Research by Dr. Susannah Stern, Associate Professor at University of San Diego finds that youth are practicing to be part of adult culture. "That is a culture of sexualization and of putting yourself out there to validate who you are and that you matter."

Sexting is an extension of how people express themselves sexually now. Because it's new, we have not developed ethical codes around it. It is important to establish that there are consequences to exploiting a private photo that someone sends you.

162.1 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE

Covers non-consensual sexting. Incidents of non-consensual distribution of intimate images and non-consensual sexting dove tail with increased use of technology and the escalating risk-taking behaviour, has created a new class of vulnerable persons that require the Court's protection. This law came into effect on March 9, 2015 and makes transmitting intimate images of a person without their knowledge or consent a crime and punishable up to five years in jail.

BILL C-13

PROTECTING CANADIANS FROM ONLINE CRIME ACT

Makes it a criminal offense that is punishable up to five years in prison for adults, as well as youth aged 12 and older, to share "intimate images" of anyone without his or her consent. Child porn charges will be applicable to anyone under 18 who sends sexts to another minor.

INTIMATE IMAGES DEFINITION

A visual recording of a person made by any means including photographic, film or video recording "in which the person is nude, is exposing his or her genital organs or anal region or her breasts or is engaged in explicit sexual activity.