

MODERN TOOLS THAT CAN RUIN CHILDREN'S LIVES



While most parents are concerned with teenage drinking, drugs and unwanted pregnancies, the threat of modern-day advances in technology have been overlooked.

OF THE THREE FOLLOWING CRIMES, WHICH TWO ACCOUNT FOR MORE LIVES LOST?

- Street racing: \$250.00 fine.
- Underage drinking: \$500.00 fine and up to 60 day imprisonment.
- Underage sexting: Up to 25 years imprisonment and lifetime on the sex offender registry.

Street racing and underage drinking cause the greater number of deaths annually, and yet the punishment for sexting is far more severe.

Child pornography laws were created to protect children. Sexting is an unfortunate outcome that was not considered when these laws were written. When passing sexting laws, did lawmakers take into account that they would be targeting underage teens?

Apparently not!



FROM THE HALLWAYS OF A SCHOOL TO THE HALLWAYS OF A PRISON

Cell phones are leading the way and are quickly becoming a greater danger to children and teens than hand guns are.



Congressman Bobby Scott, in a SORNA congressional hearing said, *“Once a person is placed upon the national sex offender registry, basically their life is over”.*

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Protect Your Children from Sexting



SOSEN EDUCATIONAL SERIES

SEXTING AND YOUR CHILD



AN EPIDEMIC OR JUST KIDS BEING KIDS?

Children, or more specifically, your children, are prone to do things that they are sorry for immediately, later, or as adults. At best, they end up as humorous stories later in life. At worst, they end in prison sentences. Yes, prison sentences!

What can a parent do to protect their children from the dangers of sexting?

PARENTS, DO NOT BE FOOLED!

Sexting laws are not about protecting children, they never were!

Jessica Logan's nude cell-phone photo—meant for her boyfriend's eyes only—was sent to hundreds of teenagers. On July 3, 2008, Jessie hung herself in her bedroom. She was only 18.



Children as young as 14 who innocently “sext” photos of themselves can be charged with child porn. The laws do not distinguish between “traditional” child porn laws and sexting.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

In today's world of reality TV and the Hollywood baby-sitter known as television, children are exposed at an early age to sexually charged situations. They see sexual situations, if not actual depictions of nudity and sex, in films, in theaters, on TV, and DVDs. They see scantily clad models in magazines and newspapers. They are inundated with sexually charged entertainment content almost from birth.

What is the outcome? Teens and preteens take semi-nude, nude or provocative pictures of themselves with their cell phones, web-cams or digital cameras. They send these images to their boyfriend or girlfriend. They keep them on their phones, cameras or computers. They post them on their MySpace, Facebook, or other social networking site pages.

THE OUTCOME

According to the law, these kids are producing, distributing and possessing child pornography. They are opening themselves to being convicted of these charges and facing up to 25 years in prison and a lifetime on the sex offender registry. Once prosecuted and placed on the national public registry, there is little chance of ever having a productive life. Many communities have residency restrictions against those registered, and good jobs are only a dream. In many instances, even getting an education is out of the question due to proximity restrictions.

“A small study released today from research group AK Tweens shows that girls as young as 10 years old involved in sexting, the sending and receiving of sexual messages and photos, just as 20% of their older peers are known to do. In the report, which combines reporting of both racy text messages and the more serious issue of sexually explicit and nude imagery, 30% of the respondents have already engaged in the practice.” by Marian Merritt 04-21-2009. <http://goo.gl/gL63Y>

THE REASONS WHY GIRLS ENGAGE IN THESE ACTIVITIES?

82% say it's to get attention
66% say it's to be “cool”
59% do it because they want to imitate the “popular” girls
and 55% say they did it to find a boyfriend.”

<http://www.allykatzz.com/page/home/>

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

There are several ways to protect your children from the ill-effects of sexting laws.

- Talk with your teens, preteens and tweens.
- Explain in frank terms the legal consequences of sexting.
- Monitor your child's social networking accounts.
- Know what your child is doing online, even if they are older teens.
- Look at the photos on their phone.
- Show your fear and concern!

PROTECT ALL CHILDREN

It is not enough to simply protect our own children.

Every parent must speak up and tell lawmakers that putting children in prison and on the national public sex offender registry is not protecting them.

Lawmakers are overly concerned with being tough on crime and getting reelected. We must tell them boldly that the office they were elected to did not give them the right to forgo common sense when enacting any new laws.

Sexting is only an epidemic because legislators chose to make it illegal. Teens, and preteens making bad decisions is an age old problem.

Isn't that the reason the age of consent was enacted? Isn't that why the legal drinking age was enacted? And yet when kids make a bad decision like sexting, the laws treat them like an adult child pornographer.

Send a message to your legislators: Tell them to stop using children to get votes!