



Crime prevention and safety tips

Board of County Commissioners | Criminal Justice Liaison

May 2010



Preventing Sexting

Under Florida's Sexting Law, anyone, including teens, who sends explicit photos could be prosecuted under child pornography laws.

What You Need To Know

- 24 percent of teenagers report having been involved in some type of nude sexting.¹
- Females are slightly more likely to share a nude photo of themselves than males, while youths who are sexually active are more than twice as likely to send such photos.¹
- Those who have sexted are four times more likely to have considered suicide.¹
- 22 percent of teenage girls have shared nude or semi-nude photos; 11 percent of those girls are ages 13-16.²
- 15 percent of teenagers have forwarded nude or semi-nude photos to people they haven't actually met, and knew only online.²
- 39 percent of all teenagers have sent sexually suggestive emails or text messages.²

What Teens Can Do

- Think about the consequences. You could get kicked off a sports team, humiliated, or lose educational opportunities by taking, sending or forwarding sexual pictures of yourself or another teenager.
- Never take images of yourself that you wouldn't want anyone else to see, especially your family, classmates or teachers.
- If a sexting photo arrives on your phone, don't send it to anyone else and tell a parent or trusted adult.
- Never open or forward explicit pictures from people you don't know.
- Use caution with devices like computer webcams. Be sure to turn them off or close the lens to prevent someone from seeing too much when you least expect it.

What Parents Can Do

- Talk with your teen about the dangers and potential legal consequences of sexting.
- Keep an eye on your child's cell phone and the pictures sent or received.
- If your teen is overly possessive of their phone, find out what they are doing.
- Purchase a phone plan that limits the number of texts that can be sent per month, and blocks images.
- Have your teen check-in their cell phone when texting isn't allowed such as bedtime and homework.

¹MTV/Associated Press Digital Abuse Study; ²Natl. Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioner goals are to reduce property crime, violent crime and overall crime by 2015. These tips are intended to increase your awareness and help avoid crime. If you have a proven prevention or awareness tip that can be shared, fax it to 813-276-2630 for consideration for a future Crime Prevention and Safety Tip. If you have questions regarding this tip, call 813-276-2033.