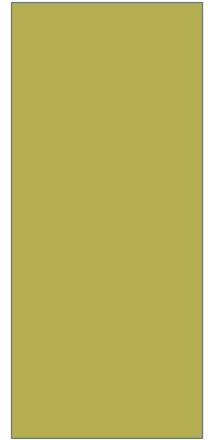




# SEXTING

## & THE LAW



# THE LAW AROUND SEXTING

Taking, possessing or sharing a sexually explicit picture or video of someone under 18 is **against the law**. It doesn't matter if they gave you permission, someone else sent it to you, you've never met them before, you are under 18 too or it's a selfie. You and anyone else involved could be investigated by the police, and this could even affect your future education and employment. Your Criminal Record or DBS form could state that you were in possession or were sharing Child Pornography **EVEN IF IT WAS A PICTURE OF YOURSELF**. This will remain on your file for life.

If you are over 18 and you send an image of yourself to someone who is also over 18, this is not a crime. However, you should consider the other consequences of sending and sharing images.



# WHAT HAPPENS TO MY PICTURES?

When you share a picture or video online or on your phone, you lose control of it. Pictures can be quickly shared over the internet. Once somebody else has it they can send it to anyone. Think how you'd feel if your nude selfie was sent to your friends, family or teachers, or if you were involved in forwarding a 'sext' of someone under 18 that results in a police investigation.

- Posting a picture online means it is never yours to keep personal anymore. Even using the app Snapchat (Where pictures disappear after a short time) there is still chance for someone to screenshot your picture and send it wherever they like. Snapchat own all of your pictures and they can use them this is also true of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and many other social media sites. Posting online means you can **NEVER** erase that picture.

# PRESSURING SOMEONE TO SEND AN IMAGE

If you're pressuring someone to send you sexually explicit or nude pictures, this is abusive and not normal or acceptable. If they are under 18 it's illegal to take, possess or share an indecent image.

Paul's Story:

<https://youtu.be/TcMd468Pqbs>

- <https://youtu.be/Ozw6Qa-lkFU>



# WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW IF I HAVE SENT A SEXT?

## Stay Calm and delete

If you have sent a picture or video you regret to a friend or your girlfriend/boyfriend ask them to **delete it immediately**. If it is posted online then un-tag yourself and report it so it can be removed. Ask friends you trust to help hunt down images and also delete and/or report those images. If you think it would help you could tell a trusted adult at school and they may be able to send a note to students directing them to delete any private photos or videos they have received without naming you.

## Report it

If someone else has posted sexual or naked photos or videos of you online, **report them to the service** they posted it on. If they are at your school you can report them to a teacher if you choose to. It is not OK for them to share your image without your permission. **NSPCC online safety helpline on 0800 800 5002.**

# SO YOU GOT NAKED ONLINE.....

- If you posted a pic into a social media site then remove it as soon as you can.
- If you sent it to someone else, you need to get in touch with them asap and ask them to delete it before it goes any further.
- If you think it has been shared wider you might want to turn to your friends for help. Your friends will often be able to help you manage the situation.
- If the image is posted by someone else on social media site then report it.
- You will need to use the sites reporting tools
- It is not enough to say I don't like the picture. If it is naked or a semi naked picture tell them it breaks their terms and conditions.
- Check other places for your name or username and use different search sites.
- Contact ChildLine or IWF they work together to remove online images.

[www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)

# HOW QUICKLY CAN A 'SEXT' OR NUDE PIC GET PASSED AROUND?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sch\\_WMjd6go](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sch_WMjd6go)



# WHAT TO DO IF I RECEIVE A 'SEXT'?

- If you've been sent a sexual image or video, don't pass it on or share it with anyone. Think about how that person might feel if somebody else saw it. Think about how you'd feel if it was a picture of you. If you're asking your boyfriend or girlfriend for a naked photo, think about how much trust they'll need to give you and how much pressure you'll be putting on them.
- People aren't always honest about who they are online. If you've received a sexual message (including things like an email, text message, picture message, sexual photo or voicemail) or one that makes you uncomfortable, try talking to an adult you can trust.
- You can also report them using the [CEOP reporting website](#) and block them from contacting you again. This'll stop them from sending you more inappropriate pictures