

# No Secrets in Sexting



Sexting is the practice of sending suggestive and explicit messages and pictures through a mobile device.

## Did You Know Sexting Can Be a Crime?

There have been cases where teenagers who have sent, seen, or received a sexually explicit text or photograph have been charged with child exploitation and possession of pornography.

Sadly, there have also been a few cases where teens have been so emotionally hurt by the effects of sexting that they have committed suicide.

## Your Digital Defense

There are popular mobile applications that have “self-destructing” features for photos. These applications allow the sender to choose how long a recipient can access and view a photo. The photo is instantly deleted seconds after it has been opened by the recipient. However, while the picture cannot be downloaded onto the recipient’s mobile device, it does not protect the sender as much as they may think. The snapshot feature on smartphones can still allow a recipient to possess and share the photo.

## Tips

- Refuse to be pressured into sexting.
- Think twice before you send an explicit text or an explicit photograph.
- Think about who will see the picture. It may be shown to people to whom it wasn’t intended.
- Use caution with devices like computer webcams. Always turn them off or close the lens to prevent prying eyes from seeing too much.



**REMEMBER THAT  
ANYTHING YOU  
SEND ONLINE NEVER  
TRULY GETS  
ERASED.**

*For more information on sexting and other topics, log on to [www.ncpc.org/Smarter](http://www.ncpc.org/Smarter).*



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This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement No. 2010-DJ-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.