

LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE

SEXTING –THE FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Sexting is where a person sends pictures via a text showing indecent images of themselves or another person.

The Protection of Children Act 1978, (and section 45 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003) is designed to protect children from abuse and therefore the Act states:



'It is a crime to take, make, permit to take, distribute, show, possess, possess with intent to distribute, or to advertise indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of any person below the age of 18'

This means that even if you have these photos stored on your phone of a person under the age of 18 years, ***you could be prosecuted by the Police.***

Once you have taken a photo of yourself, and posted it into the public domain, ie by text or Facebook, the photo stays available forever. This means that ***other people can access your images*** and forward them onto to circles of friends or websites. You often hear stories in the news of celebrities that have had their personal data made public, it causes hurt and upset when photos get into the wrong hands. ***Don't let yourself become a victim of misuse.***

You should also be aware that sometimes photos are shared by websites that are used by ***paedophiles to distribute images of children***; your images could be copied without your knowledge.

If you are either reported or found to be issuing indecent photos by any means, as part of Lincolnshire Police investigation, other partner agencies such as Children's Services will be involved to make sure you are not being exploited and that you understand the implications of your actions. Your other family members may also be interviewed.

You could also be ***placed on the sex offenders register*** even if you are under the age of 18 years. This would seriously affect your future career and development potential. An entry on the sex offenders register can last for several years or even be permanent.

So when sending text messages – ***think*** –what is the long term issue if I send this text? It might be fun now but ***will I want this photo to be shown in future years??????????***

If you feel that you would like to speak to someone regarding the issues in this leaflet please call;

Childline on 0800 1111 – This is FREE and does not show up on your call history.

Teen info Lincs is a Lincolnshire website where you can access further information.

Visit: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/teeninfoLincs.