

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



**Connecticut Youth
Services Association**



**Center for
Children's
Advocacy**

**Center for
Children's Advocacy**



**Division of Criminal Justice
Chief State's Attorney's Office**

" Before You Text" Sexting Prevention Educational Program for Connecticut

View in Slideshow Mode and connected to the Internet if possible.

Welcome

An introduction to the Before You Text... Program

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Welcome to the Sexting Prevention Educational Program for Connecticut. This program was adapted from a similar program created by the Texas School Safety Center for courts, schools and parents to use to educate themselves and their children on the dangers associated with the practice known as “sexting” and may be used in part or in its entirety as an educational tool.

Courts may use this program in addition to other conditions of supervision or probation imposed in a juvenile case. Juvenile Review Boards may use the program as a condition of diversion from the court system and schools may use the program to educate, staff, students and parents .

There is also an accompanying test to demonstrate successful completion of this program. A certificate of successful completion is available for printing, upon answering 80% or more of the test questions correctly.

The Sexting Prevention Educational Program places special emphasis on preventing sexting by minors to address the legal, social, emotional, educational and/or career impact.

Introduction

Research and concerns regarding sexting began to emerge in 2009 as the media began highlighting the possible long-term consequences of sexting, which is generally defined as the act of sending sexually explicit messages, photographs, or videos – primarily between mobile phones. In legal cases involving sexting, possible consequences included youths being charged with the production and/or distribution of child pornography. This program is designed to approach the complex issues around sexting from an educational standpoint. The following Sexting Prevention Educational Program provides a familiarity with an understanding of the:

- Terminology and the concepts of sexting;
- Consequences of sexting;
- Permanence of digital images;

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Module Overview

In order to understand concerns about "sexting," it is important to be able to define it. Although there is currently no legal definition of sexting, this module will define sexting and related terms as used in the Sexting Prevention Educational Program.

Throughout this program you will see links to the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), Connecticut Public Acts (PA) and selected websites. If you are connected to the Internet while watching the slideshow, by clicking on these links during the slideshow, you will be brought to the text of the actual Connecticut statutes, Public Acts and referenced websites.

Module Objectives

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Identify two ways to commit the crime of sexting;
- Recognize the legal definitions of bullying;
- Identify two ways to commit the crime of harassment;
- Identify examples of sexting, bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment;

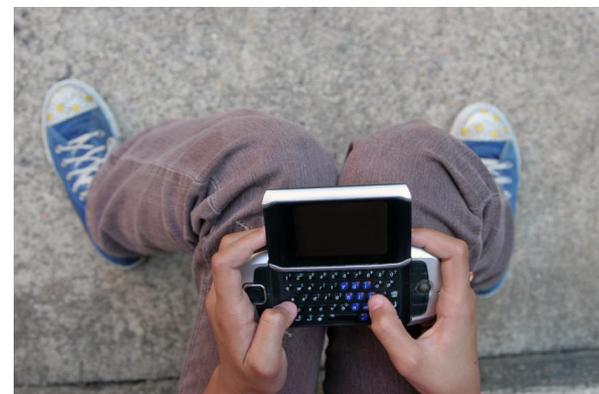
Module Topics

This module will review the following topics:

- What is sexting?
- What is bullying?
- What is cyberbullying?
- What is harassment?

What is sexting?

Sexting is the act of sending sexually explicit messages, photographs, or videos primarily between mobile phones (Wikipedia) — Connecticut law, [CGS §53a-196h](#), does not specifically define "sexting" and does not include "messages," only "visual depictions," but it does include sending or receiving such images using any "electronic communication device" such as computers and other digital devices. The term was first popularized in early 21st century, and combines the words "sex" with "texting."



Module 1

Definitions & Examples

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Examples of Sexting

You are at a party with a group of friends. They think it would liven up the party to take pictures of each other, without clothes, and send them to each other.

During exam week you are too busy to see your boyfriend/girlfriend in person, yet you want them to know that you are thinking of them. You decide to email them photos you took of yourself with your clothes off. After you break up with them, your ex-boyfriend/girlfriend forwards a photo of you without clothes on—a photo you sent them, back when you were still dating—to a close friend of theirs who has promised not to share it with anyone else.

It was “sexting” when you sent the photos of you to your ex-boyfriend/girlfriend but, if they sent the photos to someone else, they could be charged with a more serious child pornography charge.

What is bullying?

According to StopBullying.gov, bullying involves:

- **Imbalance of Power:** people who bully use their power to control or harm; the people being bullied may have a hard time defending themselves.
- **Intent to Cause Harm:** actions done by accident are not bullying; the person bullying has a goal to cause harm.
- **Repetition:** incidents of bullying happen to the same person over and over by the same person or group.

Under Connecticut law, [CGS §10-222d](#), bullying can occur in two ways:

First, the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same school district, or a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same school district, that has any of the following effects:



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What is bullying (cont'd)?

- i. causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property,
- ii. places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property,
- iii. creates a hostile environment at school for such student,
- iv. infringes on the rights of such student at school, or
- v. substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Second, "bullying" also includes a written, oral or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

In other words, if the motivation for the bully's communication, act or gesture is the bully's perception (whether correct or not) that the target of the bully's communication, act or gesture possesses one or more of the listed characteristics, such as they are of a particular race or religion, then the bully's communication act or gesture is an act of bullying.

Examples of Bullying

- **Verbal:** name-calling, teasing;
- **Social:** spreading rumors, leaving people out on purpose, breaking up friendships;
- **Physical:** hitting, punching, shoving;
- **Cyberbullying:** using the Internet, mobile phones or other digital technologies to harm others;

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What is cyberbullying?

[CGS §10-222d\(2\)](#), defines cyberbullying as: any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications;



Examples of cyberbullying

- Insulting, harassing, humiliating, embarrassing, threatening wall posts, emails, IMs, texts;
- Slam pages via profile, blog site, YouTube, etc.;
- Picture placed on voting site without permission;
- Profile on anonymous response site;
- Fake profiles used for humiliation (Connecticut does not currently have a law that specifically addresses this misconduct.);
- Fake profiles for fake relationship;
- Digital correspondence nurturing "fake" friendship, then "turn & burn;"
- "Trolling" - provoking others into desired emotional response (push buttons);
- "Flaming" - "subtle" trolling that induces emotionally intense convo (gaming);

What is harassment?

Under Connecticut law, [CGS §53a-182b](#) & [§53a-183](#), harassment occurs when a person:

- with the intent to harass, annoy, alarm or terrorize another person, threatens to kill or physically injure that person or any other person, and communicates such threat by telephone, or by telegraph, mail, computer network, or any other form of written communication, in a manner likely to cause annoyance or alarm; or
- by telephone, they address another in or uses indecent or obscene language; or
- with intent to harass, annoy or alarm another person, they communicate with a person by telegraph or mail, by electronically transmitting a fax through connection with a telephone or computer network, or by any other form of written communication, in a manner likely to cause annoyance or alarm; or

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What is harassment (cont'd)?

Under Connecticut law, harassment also occurs when a person:

- with intent to harass, annoy or alarm another person, they make a telephone call, whether or not a conversation ensues, in a manner likely to cause annoyance or alarm. This would include “hang-up” calls where the caller hangs up when the phone is answered.

Examples of harassment

- Telling someone that you are going to beat them up;
- Unwanted groping, hugging, kissing; using vulgar or sexually provocative language;
- Knocking tray of food over in cafeteria; spitting in food, etc.;
- Shutting someone in a locker;
- Driving dangerously on purpose to frighten other people in the vehicle;

Other important definitions under Connecticut law:

- “Child pornography” means any visual depiction including any photograph, film, videotape, picture or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, digital, mechanical or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a person under sixteen years of age engaging in sexually explicit conduct, provided whether the subject of a visual depiction was a person under sixteen years of age at the time the visual depiction was created is a question to be decided by the trier of fact. ([CGS §53a-193\(13\)](#))
- “Sexually explicit conduct” means actual or simulated (A) sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital or oral-anal physical contact, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex, or with an artificial genital, (B) bestiality, (C) masturbation, (D) sadistic or masochistic abuse, or (E) lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area of any person. ([CGS §53a-193\(14\)](#))
- “Visual depiction” includes undeveloped film and videotape and data that is capable of conversion into a visual image and includes encrypted data. ([CGS §53a-193\(15\)](#))



Module 2

Limits of Control with Electronic Communication & General Consequences for Sexting

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Module Overview

Because of the rapidly-changing field of technology, the consequences of sharing electronic material are hard to predict. This module discusses the nature of electronic communication and limits of control over information shared electronically.

Module Objectives

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Identify the major limitations of control over electronic communication;
- Recognize at least three general consequences of sexting;

Module Topics

This module will review the following topics:

- What are the limits of control over electronic communication?
- What are the general consequences of sexting?

What are the limits of control over electronic communication?

Before technological advances like the Internet and mobile phone messaging, it was much more difficult for someone to spread a rumor or circulate a harmful message or photo. A person either had to spread a rumor using word-of-mouth, pass around a physical copy, or go to the trouble of making copies and distributing them. Now, when a message, picture or video gets posted on the Internet or sent via mobile phone, it is impossible to know how many people will receive it. Because technology has made it easier to copy or send electronic content, you no longer have any control over a message, picture or video once you send it.

Watch the following video, developed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and choose what happens next:

<http://youtu.be/pGkaw44-Ql4>

Remember, once you send an electronic message, picture, or video, you no longer have any control over it and whoever has it can do what they want with it. The police can offer little help at that point.



Module 2

Limits of Control with Electronic Communication & General Consequences for Sexting

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What are the general consequences of sexting?

Legal

Depending on such things as a person's age and the number of pictures sent or received, it is possible for a person to be charged with either a misdemeanor or a felony offense for possession of child pornography. If a child (under 18) is adjudicated for the offense of sexting, legal consequences may include probation for period of time or even a commitment for placement in a state facility for up to 18 months with a possible extension for another 18 months. If a person 18 or older is found guilty of the felony offense of possession of child pornography, penalties range from minimum of 1 to a maximum of 20 years in prison. The legal consequences of sexting will be discussed further in [Module 3](#).

Social

Even though you may engage in sexting just to get someone's attention or to be funny, there is a good chance it could have a negative effect on your relationships with friends or family, and even your reputation. The social consequences of sexting will be discussed further in [Module 4](#).

Emotional

When your relationships with friends or family are negatively affected by sexting, this can be hard on you emotionally and linger much longer than you might think. The emotional consequences of sexting will be discussed further in [Module 5](#).

Educational & Career

Your decision to sext could prevent you from participating in activities at school, getting into college, or even getting a job – especially if sexually explicit pictures or videos of you end up on the Internet. The educational & career consequences of sexting will be discussed further in [Module 6](#).

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Consequences of Sexting - Legal

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Module Overview

Long before the practice of “sexting” became a popular activity among teens, the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) provided for strict penalties for the possession or promotion of child pornography in an effort to protect children from sexual exploitation by predators. In 2010, the Connecticut legislature enacted [PA 10-191](#) that created [CGS §53a-196h](#). Their intent was not to legalize or sanction the practice of sexting rather it was to recognize that, while still inappropriate and illegal, the sharing of sexually explicit pictures and videos among teens is not done with the same criminal intent as child pornography. It is important to realize however, that the misdemeanor consequences of sexting are only applicable in very specific situations. Outside of these situations, the more serious legal consequences of child pornography will still apply.



Module Objectives

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Recognize the difference between sexting, a misdemeanor, and the possession of child pornography, a felony.
- Know when sexting could become possession of child pornography.
- Know the legal penalties for this misconduct for children (under 18) and adults.

Module Topics

This module will review the following topics:

- The difference between sexting, a misdemeanor, and the possession of child pornography, a felony.
- When might sexting become the more serious crime of possession of child pornography?
- What are the legal penalties for this misconduct for children (under 18) and adults?

Module 3

Consequences of Sexting - Legal

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What did [Public Act 10-191](#), now [CGS §53a-196h](#), accomplish?

Before Public Act 10-191 was passed, persons who engaged in sexting could only be charged with possession of child pornography, a felony charge with extremely serious penalties, particularly for adults (persons 18 years old or older). Although children under the age of 18 would have their cases heard in the Juvenile Court, these were still felony charges. As such, a child over the age of 15 could be transferred from the Juvenile Court to adult criminal court where they would be exposed to the same penalties as an adult, including incarceration in an adult prison and registration as a sex offender on the public sex offender registry.

[CGS §53a-196h](#) now provides the Juvenile Courts with less extreme charges and penalties that still discourage the practice of sexting without the life-altering consequences of a possible felony conviction and sex offender registration. The change did not make sexting legal, it only reduced the charge to a misdemeanor.

It is very important to understand the narrow circumstances where the charge of sexting would apply. This would be good time to back and review in Module 1 the definitions of:

- “Child pornography”
- “Sexually explicit conduct”
- “Visual depiction”

Module 3

Consequences of Sexting - Legal

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What does the Connecticut law recognize as sexting?

“Sexting,” although not specifically defined in the Connecticut law, is prohibited by [CGS §53a-196h](#). That law applies in two situations:

- The knowing and voluntary transmission, by means of an electronic communications device, of a visual depiction of the sender, who is thirteen years of age or older but under sixteen years of age, engaged in sexually explicit conduct, to a person who is thirteen years of age or older but under eighteen years of age.
- The possession, by a person who is thirteen years of age or older but under eighteen years of age, of a visual depiction of the sender, between thirteen years of age or older but under sixteen years of age, engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Notice that a very narrow set of circumstances that are required for the reduced penalty to apply. The key factors are the age of the sender, the age of the recipient and the subject of the depiction. To qualify for the reduced penalty of sexting, the following must ***all*** be present:

- The sender must be age 13, 14, or 15;
- The recipient must be age 13, 14, 15, 16 or 17;
- The sender must be the subject of the depiction (picture or video);

When is the possession, sending or receiving images of a person under 16 engaged in sexually explicit conduct no longer misdemeanor sexting but it becomes a felony charge?

- If the sender is under age 13 – ***it’s not “sexting;”***
- If the recipient is under age 13 or over age 17 – ***it’s not “sexting;”***
- If the depiction is of someone other than the sender – ***it’s not “sexting;”***

In these situations, the more serious child pornography or risk of injury to a minor charges may apply.

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Consequences of Sexting - Legal

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What constitutes “possessing child pornography” in Connecticut?

[CGS §53a-196d](#) defines possessing child pornography in the 1st degree as possessing:

- (1) fifty or more visual depictions of child pornography, or
- (2) one or more visual depictions of child pornography that depict the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical injury, or
- (3) (A) a series of images in electronic, digital or other format, which is intended to be displayed continuously, consisting of two or more frames, or a film or videotape, consisting of two or more frames, that depicts
 - (i) more than one child engaging in sexually explicit conduct, or
 - (ii) more than one act of sexually explicit conduct by one or more children, or(B) any combination of a
 - (i) series of images in electronic, digital or other format, which is intended to be displayed continuously,
 - (ii) film, or
 - (iii) videotape, which series, film or videotape each consists of two or more frames and depicts a single act of sexually explicit conduct by one child.

Possessing child pornography in the 1st degree is a class B felony.

[CGS §53a-196e](#) defines possessing child pornography in the 2nd degree as possessing:

- (1) twenty or more but fewer than fifty visual depictions of child pornography, or
- (2) a series of images in electronic, digital or other format, which is intended to be displayed continuously, consisting of twenty or more frames, or a film or videotape, consisting of twenty or more frames, that depicts a single act of sexually explicit conduct by one child.

Possessing child pornography in the 2nd degree is a class C felony.

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Consequences of Sexting - Legal

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What constitutes “possessing child pornography” in Connecticut (cont’d)?

[CGS §53a-196f](#) defines possessing child pornography in the 3rd degree as possessing:

- (1) fewer than twenty visual depictions of child pornography, or
- (2) a series of images in electronic, digital or other format, which is intended to be displayed continuously, consisting of fewer than twenty frames, or a film or videotape, consisting of fewer than twenty frames, that depicts a single act of sexually explicit conduct by one child.

Possessing child pornography in the 3rd degree is a class D felony.

Are there any defenses that can be raised if a person is found to be in possession of child pornography?

A person found to be in possession of child pornography might avoid a conviction if they can prove that:

(1) they:

- A. possessed fewer than three visual depictions, other than a series of images in electronic, digital or other format, which is intended to be displayed continuously, or a film or videotape, of child pornography, and
- B. did not knowingly purchase, procure, solicit or request such visual depictions or knowingly take any other action to cause such visual depictions to come into the defendant’s possession, and
- C. promptly and in good faith, and without retaining or allowing any person, other than a law enforcement agency, to access any visual depiction or copy thereof, took reasonable steps to destroy each such visual depiction or reported the matter to a law enforcement agency and afforded that agency access to each such visual depiction, or

(2) they possessed a visual depiction of a nude person under sixteen years of age for a bona fide artistic, medical, scientific, educational, religious, governmental or judicial purpose.

Module 3

Consequences of Sexting – Legal

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What are the penalties if a person under 18 is convicted of sexting?

The penalty for a child (a person under the age of 18) convicted as a juvenile in Juvenile Court for the crime of sexting ranges from a dismissal with a warning by the judge, probation for a period of time set by the court or a commitment to the Connecticut Department of Children and Families for placement outside of the child's home, or even in a secure treatment facility, for up to 18 months. That commitment may be extended by the court for another 18 if the court thinks such an extension is in the child's or the community's best interests.

What are the penalties if a person under 18 is convicted of possessing child pornography?

The penalty for a child (a person under the age of 18) convicted as a juvenile in Juvenile Court for the crime of possessing child pornography would be the same as sexting. Since these charges are felonies however, a child as young as 15 may have their case transferred from the Juvenile Court to the adult criminal court where they would face the same penalties as an adult, including the loss of confidentiality, the consequences of being convicted of a felony (such as the loss of the right to vote or to hold certain offices or obtain certain licenses and professional certificates), the possibility of incarceration in an adult correctional facility (prison) with other adults and the possibility that they be required to publically register as a sex offender.

What are the penalties if a person 18 or older is convicted of sexting?

[CGS §53a-196h](#), which provides for a misdemeanor sentence for possessing visual depictions of a person under the age of 16 engaged in sexually explicit conduct, ***does not apply*** to persons 18 or older. Such persons would be subject to the more serious possessing child pornography charges.

Module 3

Consequences of Sexting - Legal

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What are the penalties if a person 18 or older, or one transferred from the Juvenile Court to the adult criminal court, is convicted of possessing child pornography?

- Possession of child pornography in the 1st degree – class B felony;
 - Minimum of 5 years up to a maximum of 20 years in prison;
 - Fine up \$15,000;
- Possession of child pornography in the 2nd degree – class C felony;
 - Minimum of 2 years up to a maximum of 10 years in prison;
 - Fine up \$10,000;
- Possession of child pornography in the 3rd degree – class D felony;
 - Minimum of 1 year up to a maximum of 5 years in prison;
 - Fine up \$5,000;

Any person convicted in the adult criminal court for possessing child pornography may also be required to register as a sex offender on the public sex offender registry for a period of time.

Module 4

Consequences of Sexting – Social

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Module Overview

Sexting can result in negative and harmful social consequences that seriously harm relationships that were healthy and trusting. Sexting can also give you a bad reputation that could lead to undesired attention and even sexual harassment you might not have had to deal with before.

Module Objectives

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Identify three kinds of social consequences that can result from sexting;
- Identify different ways sexting can negatively affect your relationships with friends, family, and other people;

Module Topics

This module will review the following topics:

- What are some of the social losses that can result from sexting?
- How might your sexting behavior affect other people in your life?

What are some of the social losses that might result from sexting?

Bad Reputation

Even if you only sent one sexting message, others may now have a bad opinion of you. Just one bad choice could overshadow the positive image others had of you. If you forward a sexually explicit image of someone else, people may see you as untrustworthy or even as a bully.

Isolation/Outcast from Peer Groups

Once you have sent sexually explicit digital images of yourself, your friends may not want to associate with you, because they do not agree with participating in such behaviors. Your friends may be put in awkward situations because they hear others talking about you and the images you sent electronically. Your friends may feel cutting ties with you is easier than getting involved in the situation.



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Consequences of Sexting – Social

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What are some of the social losses that can result from sexting (cont'd)?

Undesired Attention, Sexual Harassment

If you post sexually-explicit images, other students may now approach you asking for more images because they think you will be willing to post others. Even worse, you could attract the attention of an online predator or someone that exploits you by posting or threatening to post your images online.

Remember: once you send images electronically, you no longer have a choice about who sees them.

Dating for Wrong Reasons

Someone may only want to date you because they think they will get you to send them more indecent photos or videos.

How might your sexting behavior affect other people in your life?

Friends

Your friends may be put in awkward situations because they hear others talking about you and the images you sent electronically. Your friends may feel as if cutting ties with you are easier than getting involved in the situation. They may also be embarrassed or ashamed to be associated with you.

Family

Your family members are eventually very likely to see any images you send electronically. Imagine how your parents, siblings, or other family members might feel about seeing sexting images of you passed around at school or in the neighborhood.

Remember; once you send images electronically, you no longer have a choice about who sees them.

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Consequences of Sexting – Social

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Let's look at a brief video of Megan, a girl who sent a sexting message at school and see the different reactions from students and the affect it had on Megan: <http://youtu.be/DwKgg35YbC4>

Why did Megan take that photo and send it from her mobile phone?

It is possible she is dating the person she sent the image to. It is also a possibility he told her if she sent him a picture like that, he would consider dating her. She also figured he would be the only person who would see it. If she knows other people who have done it before, then she might not have thought it was a big deal.



How did Megan's classmates contribute to the problem?

First, some of them chose to forward the picture to other students, which is not considered to be sexting and may be child pornography which is also illegal and may have more serious consequences. Additionally, Megan felt uncomfortable because of some of the comments and glances she got from other students. Instead, students should not make matters worse by spreading the picture and making Megan feel bad, but should find ways to support her while also letting her know how unsafe and inappropriate sexting can be.

How will Megan's actions, and those of her classmates, affect her in the future?

Most importantly, Megan will never be able to take back that photo. Some people may choose not to be friends with her, while others may only show interest in her because they want her to send them the same kind of pictures. Because her classmates chose to forward the picture to other people, many people will think differently about Megan, even if their new opinions about Megan are wrong. At least in the short term, some people are going to treat Megan differently, whether she likes it or not. In the long term, it is possible that future employers or schools might not employ or recruit her because of the inappropriate image of her online.

Module 5

Consequences of Sexting – Emotional

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Module Overview

While your reasons for sexting might include wanting to be liked or accepted, understanding the emotional results may protect you from negative consequences.

Module Objectives

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Identify four negative emotional consequences that can result from sexting;
- Recognize how these emotional consequences may be long-term and may outweigh the impulse to engage in sexting behaviors;

Module Topics

This module will review the following topics:

- What are possible emotional consequences of sexting?
- How might the consequences of sexting have long-term emotional effects?

What are possible emotional consequences of sexting?

Embarrassment and Humiliation

You may feel embarrassed and/or humiliated after sending a sexting message, particularly when you realize you have no control over who sees the images you sent. Recall the videos in [Modules 2](#) and [4](#). In both videos, the girls sent photos of themselves, only to find their friends, little brother, parents, and the students at school saw it, as it circulates out of control. Imagine how they must have felt after everyone saw their pictures.



Loneliness

As mentioned in [Module 4](#), peers may avoid you if your sexting images are circulated, which may cause you to feel like there is no one to help you. It may be awkward to go to an adult; therefore, you may feel as if you are the only one who has to deal with this problem. Your parents might take away your cell phone to keep you from doing the same thing again, so you may also feel detached from being able to communicate with your friends.

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Consequences of Sexting – Emotional

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Fear

You may be afraid to go to school or other places, because you don't know what people are going to say to you regarding the sexting incident. You may fear going to social events because you will never be certain whether or not someone will mention and or even show the image or video. You may fear for your safety or well-being because of the negative attention you receive in the form of sexual advances or harassment. You may also become a victim of bullying in the form of teasing and/or being excluded by peers.

Betrayal

When a boyfriend or girlfriend, peers, neighbors, and perhaps even family members share inappropriate images of you with others, you may feel betrayed. Even strong friendships and other positive relationships may be ruined through you, followed by others, using social media in an unethical, inappropriate, or irresponsible way.

How might the consequences of sexting have long-term emotional effects?

Even though years may have passed since you sent an electronic image that was considered "sexting", you may find the image circulating again and again. Remember, once you send the image you have no control over who sees it or when they see it. Embarrassment, humiliation, fear, and betrayal may come back to haunt you. The sexually explicit digital image you sent is available from now on, for others to view. Also, most people are able to remember, throughout life, the embarrassing events that have happened to them and to even re-experience negative emotions as these events are recalled. If your name is associated with the image, a simple search of your name at any time in the future might bring up the image.



Module 6

Consequences of Sexting – Educational & Career

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Module Overview

Probably one of the hardest things for students to do is imagine and predict the impact their behavior can have on them as adults. This module will discuss both the career and educational negative consequences that can result from sexting.

Module Objectives

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Identify three different ways sexting can impact job and educational opportunities;

Module Topics

This module will review the following topics:

- How can sexting negatively affect your participation in extracurricular activities?
- How can sexting create obstacles in your job application process?
- How can sexting create obstacles in your school application process?

How can sexting affect your participation in extracurricular activities?

If you choose to send inappropriate pictures or videos of yourself, school policies may prohibit you from participating in any school-sponsored activities, even if you are not formally charged and convicted of sexting. Teachers or administrators may even choose to hold you out of activities to avoid the disruption your participation might cause.



How can sexting create obstacles in your job application process?

Employers may turn down your application if you have a criminal record or they are concerned your character is not up to their standards. They also may not want someone on their staff who has inappropriate pictures circulating on the Internet and they often search an applicant's name to see what's on the Internet.

How can sexting create obstacles in your school application process?

Similar to the job application process, college admissions staff may look critically at someone who chose to send inappropriate pictures or videos of themselves that eventually ended up on the Internet. Admissions offices are also known to conduct online research of social networking sites and search engines.



Module 7

How Sexting, Bullying, & Harassment are Related

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Module Overview

With technology evolving and creating new issues like sexting that need to be addressed, bullying is a related topic that has expanded its definition to include the new issue of cyberbullying. In this module, we will discuss bullying identification, prevention, response and reporting, especially as mandated by the State of Connecticut. We will also discuss how sexting is related and can be connected to bullying and harassment.

Module Objectives

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Identify various types of bullying and cyberbullying;
- Identify ways students and adults can prevent bullying;
- Recognize the definitions of the terms target, bystander, and aggressor;
- Recognize the difference between safe/appropriate and unsafe/inappropriate responses to bullying;
- Identify different ways you can report bullying and the people you can report it to;
- Recognize how sexting can be connected to bullying and harassment;
- Identify what Connecticut law requires schools to do about bullying?

Module Topics

This module will review the following topics:

- What are the various roles involved in bullying?
- How can bullying be prevented?
- How should you respond to bullying?
- What are different ways you can report bullying?
- How are sexting, bullying, and harassment related?

What are the various roles involved in bullying?

Aggressor

An aggressor is someone who engages in bullying someone else physically, verbally, or electronically. It is possible for someone who is initially a bystander or a target to become an aggressor.



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What are the various roles involved in bullying (cont'd)?

Target

A target is someone who is being bullied by an aggressor. Sometimes this person stays a target the whole time, and other times a target can retaliate and become an aggressor.

Bystander

A bystander is someone who sees bullying behavior happening. It is possible for a bystander to become an aggressor and engage in bullying behavior. It is also possible for a bystander to become a target of bullying. Bystanders, however, have a special opportunity to safely and responsibly respond when they see someone being bullied, and they can also help protect others and prevent bullying from happening again in the future.

How can bullying be prevented?

- School policy prohibiting bullying;
- Create an attitude among students and adults that bullying is not appropriate;
- Teach students and adults kindness and understanding towards all people;



How should you respond to bullying?

- Safely help the target stay out of harm's way;
- Politely but firmly say how bullying is inappropriate;
- Support the target – be a friend;



What are different ways you can report bullying?

- Tell a trusted friend or adult;
- Write a note and give it to a counselor or another trusted adult at school;
- Use anonymous text or email bullying reporting service;



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How Sexting, Bullying, & Harassment are Related

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How are sexting, bullying, and harassment related?

Bullying, harassment, and sexting may all overlap in certain cases. Take the example of the high school girl who voluntarily sends a photo of herself to her boyfriend. They break-up shortly after the photo is sent. He then sends the photo to all of his friends and classmates.

The fact that the image is now being sent over and over between everyone involved is bullying and also harassment. The image is being used to continuously degrade or embarrass the girl who sent it. This creates a hostile environment at school, because she cannot escape the comments and ridicule. The act of sending the image, first by her ex-boyfriend, then a number of times by his friends, is a malicious act that harms her emotional health.

It is also bullying or harassment to coerce someone to send you an inappropriate image or video by threatening to either not be their friend, spread rumors about them, or even break up with them if you are in a relationship. Making someone do something that is illegal – like sexting – is bullying and harassment.

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How Sexting, Bullying, & Harassment are Related

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What does the Connecticut law require schools to do about bullying?

[CGS §10-222d\(b\)](#) requires that schools develop and implement a safe school climate plan to address bullying and teen dating violence that:

1. enable students to anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees and require students and parents to be notified at the beginning of each school year of the process to make such reports,
2. enable the parents or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying,
3. require school employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying to orally notify the safe school climate specialist or another school administrator not later than one school day after they witnesses or receive a report of bullying and to file a written report not later than two school days after making the oral report,
4. require the safe school climate specialist to investigate or supervise the investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports and that the parents of the student alleged to have committed the bullying and the parents of the student against whom the bullying was directed receive prompt notice that such investigation has commenced,
5. require the safe school climate specialist to review any anonymous reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report,
6. include a prevention and intervention strategy for school employees to deal with bullying and teen dating violence,
7. provide that language concerning bullying be included in student codes of conduct,

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How Sexting, Bullying, & Harassment are Related

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What does the Connecticut law require schools to do about bullying (cont'd)?

8. require each school to notify the parents of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and the parents of students against whom the acts were directed not later than forty-eight hours after the completion of the investigation,
9. require each school to invite the parents of a student against whom such act was directed to a meeting to them the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety of the student against whom such act was directed and policies and procedures in place to prevent further acts of bullying,
10. require each school to invite the parents of a student who commits any verified act of bullying to a meeting, separate and distinct from the meeting with the target of the bullying, to discuss specific interventions undertaken by the school to prevent further acts of bullying,
11. establish a procedure for each school to document and maintain records relating to reports and investigations of bullying in the school and to maintain a list of the number of verified acts of bullying in the school and make such list available for public inspection, and annually report the number to the Department of Education,
12. direct the development of case-by-case interventions for addressing repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual that may include both counseling and discipline,
13. prohibit discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying,

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What does the Connecticut law require schools to do about bullying (cont'd)?

14. direct the development of student safety support plans for students against whom an act of bullying was directed that address safety measures the school will take to protect the students against further acts of bullying,
15. require the principal of a school, or their designee, to notify the police when they believe that any acts of bullying constitute criminal conduct,
16. prohibit bullying
 - (A) on school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by the school, and
 - (B) outside of the school setting if such bullying
 - (i) creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was directed, or
 - (ii) infringes on the rights of the student against whom such bullying was directed at school, or
 - (iii) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school,
14. require, at the beginning of each school year, each school to provide all school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school district's safe school climate plan, and
15. require that all school employees annually complete training designed to address school violence prevention, conflict resolution, the prevention of and response to youth suicide and the identification and prevention of and response to bullying.

Summary

Summary and Test

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Closing

Thank you for your interest in learning more about the complex issues involved with sexting, including definitions, consequences, and permanence of images sent electronically.

Before you send that message, picture or video, think about it and ask yourself the question you will undoubtedly be asked by your parents, your friends, and maybe even the police:
Was it really worth it?

If you want to take the brief, multiple-choice test to assess your knowledge of the information you learned here today, please click [here](#).

[PROCEED TO TEST](#)

1. If you send an electronic message, picture, or video, are you able to control who else might see it?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
2. Which of the following is NOT an example of harassment?
 - A. Telling someone that you are going to beat them up
 - B. Writing in someone's yearbook without being invited to do so
 - C. Unwanted hugging and/or kissing
 - D. Shutting someone in a locker
3. Which of the following is NOT a possible legal consequence for sexting for someone under age 18?
 - A. Dismissal with a warning
 - B. Probation
 - C. Placement outside of the child's home, or even in a secure treatment facility, for up to 18 months
 - D. Conviction of a felony
4. Which of the following is NOT a general consequence of sexting?
 - A. Social
 - B. Emotional
 - C. Environmental
 - D. Legal
5. Although there is no legal definition of sexting, Connecticut law considers which of the following statements as sexting?
 - A. Willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices
 - B. Threatening to cause harm or bodily injury to another student or engaging in sexually intimidating conduct
 - C. The act of sending sexually explicit visual depictions (photographs or videos) primarily between mobile phones or any other electronic means.
 - D. Sending family photos using online social media or any other digital devices

6. Which of the following is NOT an example of cyberbullying?
 - A. Following someone on foot across a parking lot
 - B. Slam pages via profile, blog site, YouTube, etc.
 - C. Picture placed on voting site without permission
 - D. Digital correspondence nurturing "fake friendship" then "turn and burn"
7. Which one of the following is an example of sexting?
 - A. You are 13 years old and you send a picture of yourself in a sexually explicit pose to a person that is 15 years old.
 - B. During exam week you are too busy to see your boyfriend/girlfriend in person but want them to know that you are thinking of him/her. You decide to email him/her several photos of last year's family vacation.
 - C. Your ex-boyfriend/girlfriend forwards a photo of you at your graduation to a close friend of theirs who promises not to share it with anyone else.
 - D. While you are in class, a boy/girl you do not know very well sends you a text message.
8. Generally, conduct is considered bullying if the conduct involves which of the following?
 - A. An imbalance of power between the bully and the victim in written or verbal expression or physical conduct.
 - B. Intent to cause harm
 - C. Repetition
 - D. All of the above
9. Under Connecticut law, which of the following would be bullying?
 - A. Repeated use by a student of a written communication, directed at another student attending the same school, that creates a hostile environment at school for such student
 - B. A student constantly disrupts the class by calling the teacher "stupid."
 - C. A physical act motivated by the bully's perception (whether correct or not) that the target is a member of a particular racial group
 - D. All of the above

10. Cyberbullying can be defined as
 - A. using the Internet, mobile phones or other digital technologies to harm others
 - B. any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications;
 - C. A and B
 - D. None of the above
11. With modern technology, it is possible for a sexually explicit photo to be sent to:
 - A. Other students
 - B. Teachers or coaches
 - C. Family members
 - D. Complete strangers
 - E. All of the above
12. Which of the following are negative social consequences that can result from sexting?
 - A. Isolation from friends
 - B. Sexual Harassment
 - C. Earn a trustworthy reputation
 - D. All of the above
 - E. Only A & B
13. Which of the following is NOT an emotional consequence that can result from sexting?
 - A. Embarrassment
 - B. Loneliness
 - C. Betrayal
 - D. Ambition
14. If you engage in sexting behaviors, your relationships with friends and family can be negatively affected in what ways?
 - A. Others may think of you as “easy” or sexually active
 - B. You may attract the unwanted attention of predators
 - C. Others may be embarrassed to be seen with you
 - D. All of the above

15. A 14 year old sends you a sexually explicit picture of him/herself, and you – also 14 years old – keep it on your phone without telling anyone. If you are caught, you will likely be charged with:
- A. Sexting, a class A misdemeanor
 - B. Possession of child pornography 3rd degree, a class D felony
 - C. Possession of child pornography 2nd degree, a class C felony
 - D. Possession of child pornography 1st degree, a class B felony
16. A child charged with a crime will typically be handled by a juvenile court. According to Connecticut law, a “child” is defined as which of the following?
- A. A person under the age of 21
 - B. A person under the age of 18
 - C. A person under the age of 16
 - D. None of the above
17. Your boy/girlfriend sent you some sexually explicit pictures while you were dating last year and while both of you were 15 years old. You are both now 16 years old. After a break-up, you decide to send the pictures to the entire school. You can be charged with possession of child pornography 3rd degree, a class D felony. True or False?
- A. True
 - B. False
18. What is the minimum amount of prison time a person age 18 or older, or a person transferred from the juvenile court to the adult court, can receive if convicted of possession of child pornography 3rd degree?
- A. 6 months
 - B. 1 year
 - C. 2 years
 - D. 10 years
19. Which of the following are appropriate ways to report bullying to a trusted friend or adult?
- A. Talk to him/her in person before or after school/class
 - B. Write a note and drop it off at the counselor’s office
 - C. Use an anonymous text or email reporting service that will notify an adult at the school
 - D. All of the above

20. Someone who engages in bullying someone else physically, verbally, or electronically is called:
- A. An abstainer
 - B. An alligator
 - C. An alleviator
 - D. An aggressor
21. Which of the following is NOT an effective strategy to prevent bullying?
- A. Enforcement of school policy prohibiting bullying
 - B. Teaching students and adults kindness and understanding towards everyone
 - C. Calling someone names when you see her/him bullying
 - D. Create an attitude among everyone that bullying is not appropriate
22. It is possible for sexting material you sent years ago to continue to bother you. True or False?
- A. True
 - B. False
23. Bullying, sexting, and harassment may overlap in certain cases
- A. True
 - B. False
24. If you are involved in sending sexting material, how might your education and career be affected?
- A. Employers might not want someone working for them that has inappropriate pictures of themselves on the Internet
 - B. College admissions staff may look critically at someone who choose to send inappropriate pictures or video that ended up on the Internet
 - C. Teachers or coaches may decide that your participation in an activity could cause a distraction, so they may choose to hold you out of activities
 - D. All of the above
25. Because of technology, it is possible for a message, picture, or video you post in elementary, middle school, or high school to affect job or college opportunities you have later in life. True or False?
- A. True
 - B. False