

Trusted Moments

A short film for teenagers about risky behaviour.

LOGIC
FILMS



Legal Services
Commission
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mobile Phones and Online Safety Fact Sheet

Mobile phones, the internet and social networks have changed the way we communicate, share information and learn about the world around us. Staying in touch with family and friends via text or social networks are some of the many advantages of today's communication technology.

However, mobiles phones and online social networks are also increasingly being used for bullying and harassment, and for producing and sharing sexualised images and videos.

These are issues that particularly affect young people, and put them at risk of victimisation and sexual exploitation, or alternatively, going to court charged with a criminal offence.

What is 'sexting'?

Sexting is a term that refers to taking and sending sexual images of yourself or of other people via text or email, and includes posting sexualised material on the internet or social networks.

Are sexualised images against the law?

In South Australia, producing, sharing or collecting sexualised images of young people who are, **or look as if they are** under 17, may constitute child pornography.

Each State and Territory in Australia has its own laws dealing with the sexual exploitation of young people. There is also Federal law designed to stop people from using internet

and mobile phone providers to download, post or share sexualised images of children.

People found guilty of child pornography charges by a court of law can face serious legal consequences. If you are not in South Australia, find out about the laws in your State or Territory by contacting your local legal aid agency.

Remember

Think carefully before you decide to take and send sexual images to other people, especially if you feel under pressure to do so.

If an image or film is sent to your phone or email:

- do not keep it. Delete it straight away
- do not pass it on or post it
- if you know who sent it, tell them to stop
- if they continue to send you images, speak to a trusted adult or police.

Never send on an image or film that someone has sent to you in trust. Be respectful.

If you keep material that may be considered to be child pornography in your phone or on your computer, even if you did not ask for it, you can still get into trouble with the law.

The law relating to these areas can be complex. If you are unsure about the matter, seek advice and support. You can contact the Legal Service Commission SA or your local legal aid agency for confidential legal advice.