



Tips for Parents on Sexting & Teens

The best tech safety policy is education and trust.

Make behavioral expectations clear to teens.

Have frequent discussions about the responsibilities and privileges associated with the use of technology.

Be familiar with technology kids are using.

Email, texting, IMing, chatting, gaming, social networking, web and cell phone cameras.

Become familiar with texting acronyms.

CTN=Can't Talk Now, TDTM=Talk Dirty To Me, WYRN=What's Your Real Name?, pron=porn, 420=marijuana, 8=oral sex, zerg=to gang up on someone
For more translations, visit teenluresprevention.com/parents

Use teachable moments.

Local and national news stories about Internet and electronic crimes provide opportunities to discuss these issues. Google "sexting news" for related articles.

Supervise teens online and electronically.

Let them know you are monitoring them because you love them and care about their future. Don't rely entirely on parental control software; your teens can quickly bypass these!

Google Search your child's name in quotations.

You may be surprised what you find.

If you think your youngster is Sexting...

Monitor their cell phone use. Check cell phone Messages (*Sent & Inbox*), Recent Calls (*Received*) and Media Center (*Pictures & Videos and Downloads*.)

Pics don't stay private.

Once sent, they can't be retrieved, they can be forwarded to many other people and they can't be erased.

Think before Forwarding.

If a teen forwards a nude pic of a minor, he/she becomes the original sender of child pornography, which is against the law – even if they're a minor.

Images and blogs have future consequences.

They are available for the entire world to see and share. This includes school officials, law enforcement, college admissions departments and future employers.