The Dangers of Sexting

Just delete it.

Delete and do not share any nude or sexual pictures, videos, or content of minors you might receive online. It’s against the law to have a nude picture of a minor on your phone or to share it – even if you’re a minor, too.

Ask yourself before posting:

Are you okay with explaining an embarrassing photo or video of yourself for the rest of your life? Since it is nearly impossible to erase anything from the internet, you will have to live with the consequences for years. Don’t post or share any photos of yourself that is sexually explicit or harmful.

For more information, contact the Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division at 475-3324 or visit www.guamag.org.
Underage sexting is illegal.

Sexting is the sending of sexually explicit or nude photographs, videos, or messages by cell phone.

Under 9 GCA 28.100, it’s illegal to create, receive, exchange, send, or have photos, videos, or other content on your phone or computer that show a minor (anyone under 18 years old) naked or performing sexual acts.

And, under 9 GCA 28.102 (Guam’s Revenge Porn Law) it’s illegal for anyone to share sexts as a way to harm, embarrass, coerce, intimidate, or threaten the original sender.

“But it's consensual!”

Sexting between an adult and minor, even if both agree to it, can lead to legal consequences for both the adult and the minor.

No matter how it was received or came into one’s possession, it’s illegal for an adult to receive, send, or just have photos, videos, or other content on his/her phone or computer that show a minor naked or performing sexual acts.

It’s also illegal for a minor to create and send nude or sexually explicit photos of themselves.

“But we're both minors!”

It’s also illegal for minors to sext each other.

Under Guam law, it’s illegal when a minor receives, creates, has, or sends nude or sexually explicit photos of themselves. It’s also illegal when a minor creates, receives, has, or sends nude or sexually explicit photos of another minor.

Consequences

Teens and minors can be charged for sending sexts of themselves, possessing sexts on their phone, and sharing sexts of someone without their consent with other people.

Anyone found to have created, received, exchanged, send, or possess sexually explicit or nude photos, videos, or material of a minor will be found guilty of a separate offense for each picture, video or material.

A minor found to violate this law could be found guilty of a delinquent act, which could result in the minor being taken into custody and/or participating in a diversionary program.

A second or third offense is a more serious crime and has more serious penalties.

Tips for Teens and Kids

• Don’t let anyone pressure you to do things that make you feel uncomfortable. Your safety, privacy, reputation, self-respect, and career are worth so much more than being liked or getting likes.

• Don’t assume that your pictures, videos, and messages will stay private once you send them. Once sent or posted, you have no control over where your content will go.

• Remember: you'll will be guilty of a crime if you create, receive, share, or have a nude or sexually explicit photo, video, or material of a minor, even if you create or share a nude or sexually explicit content of yourself.

• Think before you share. Consider the feelings of others when sharing content online or on Whatsapp, SMS, etc.

• Be careful of who you communicate with on your phone or computer. People you meet online can be dangerous.