

WHAT IS SEXTING?

Sexting is generally defined as the sending or receiving of sexually explicit or sexually suggestive images or video via a cell phone.

In Texas, the definition is much broader. Sexting includes any possession and/or electronic transmission by a minor (age 17 and under) of visual material capturing a minor engaged in sexual conduct, which includes still photographs of private body parts.

RESOURCES

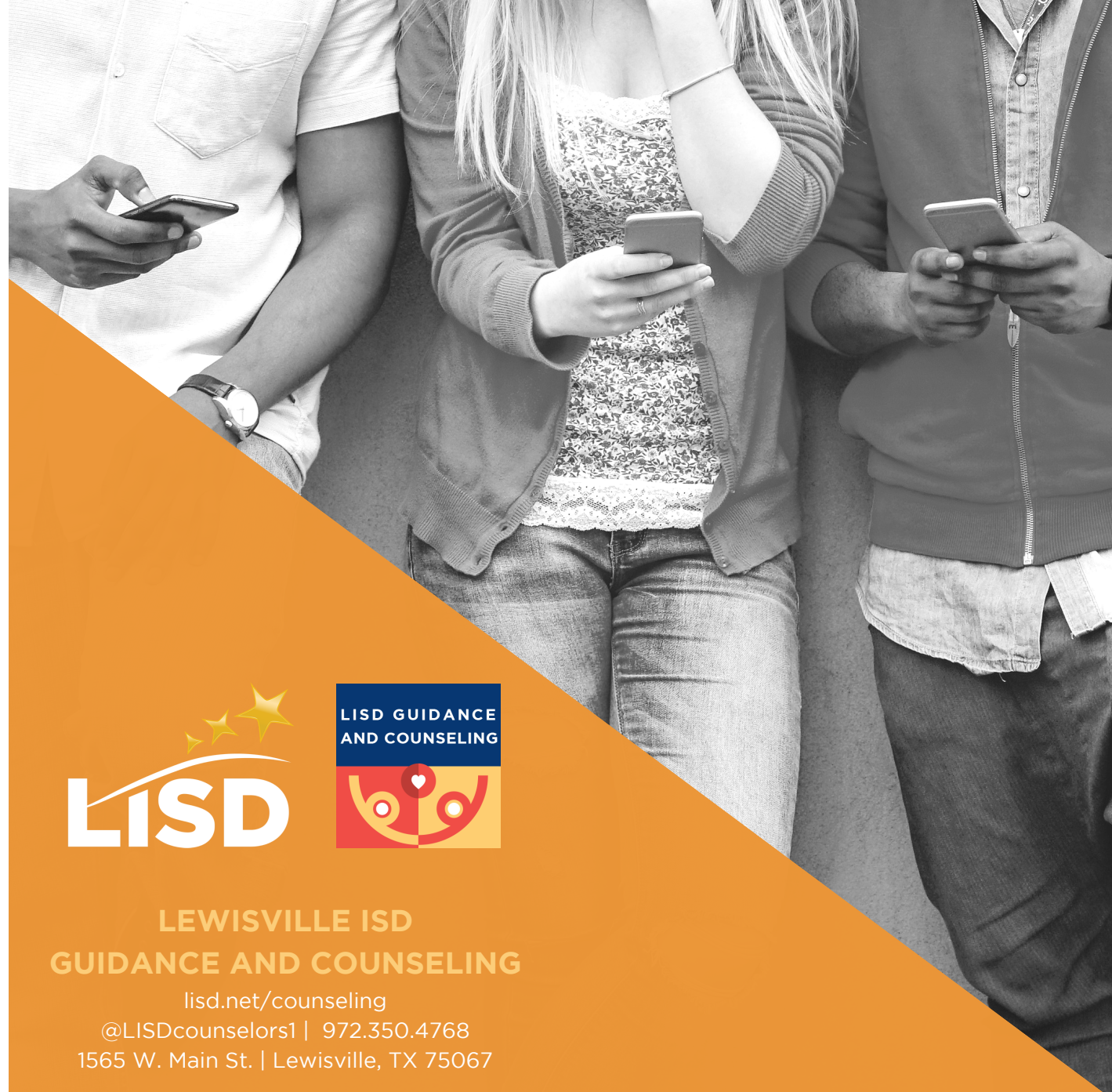
netsmartz.org
thatsnotcool.org
beforeyoutext.com



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SEXTING



THE RISKS

Teens may not believe or be able to foresee a situation in which the person they send a sext chooses to share that image with others. However, it does happen and the consequences can be academically, socially and emotionally devastating.

Teens that sext may:

- Get in trouble at school: Teens caught sexting at school have been suspended and removed from athletic teams
- Be ostracized, bullied or harassed within their schools or communities
- Miss out on future opportunities if the image is seen by college admissions officers or potential employers
- Get into legal trouble: In extreme cases, teens have been charged for sexting images of themselves or other minors



CONSEQUENCES

LEGAL

- Arrest
- Jail time up to 1 year
- Fine of up to \$4,000
- Court costs and attorney fees
- Community service up to 200 hours
- Court-ordered "Sexting" educational program attendance with your parents
- Cell phone and/or computer confiscated by police
- A criminal record

SOCIAL

- Potential sharing well beyond intended audience (worldwide)
- Embarrassment
- Bullying from peers
- School expulsion
- Loss of extra-curricular school activities
- Negative effects on relationships
- Stereotyped by peers
- Psychological effects could include depression and thoughts of suicide
- Potential loss of future educational and employment opportunities

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Think of the consequences of taking, sending or forwarding sexually suggestive pictures of someone underage, even if it's you.
2. Never take pictures of yourself that you wouldn't want everyone — your classmates, your teachers, your parents, your family or your employers — to see.
3. Before sending, remember that you have no control where this image goes. What you send to your boyfriend or girlfriend could end up with their friends, and their friends and their friends.
4. If you forward a sexual picture of someone underage, you are responsible for this image as the original sender. You could face child pornography charges, go to jail and negatively affect your future.
5. **REPORT!** If you receive a text, image or video that could be considered sexting, do NOT forward it or show the image to anyone. Contact a trusted, responsible adult to help.