

# Why is 'SEXTING' such a big deal?

*It starts out as a simple text message—most teens think it is just a way to flirt or a harmless joke. One photo sent to one person. But that person then sent it to someone.*



*...And that person did the same.*

It's impossible to control where photos and messages go the minute it leaves your phone. They can be forwarded to friends, parents, teachers and even posted on the Internet. They may even be seen by sex predators!

## **THINK of the other potential consequences.**

Prosecutors are holding teens responsible for sexting by charging them with crimes such as manufacturing, distributing and possession of child pornography—even if they were willing participants!

### **So what CAN you do?**

- Don't take or send nude or revealing photos of you or anyone else.
- Think about what may happen: You could be kicked off sports teams, be suspended from school, be denied acceptance to college or lose the chance at a job. You also can be arrested.
- If you receive a revealing photo—wanted or not—do not send it to anyone.
- Unwanted text messages or photo messages can be reported to the authorities or you can talk to an adult you trust—parents or guardians, a teacher, coach or school counselor.

Give and get respect...check out [www.pcar.org](http://www.pcar.org).  
If you've been harassed, you can get help by calling 1-888-772-7227.

