

"Sexting" trend hits Central Texas

By: Kevin Davis

March 3, 2009. ABC News. <http://www.kxxv.com/Global/story.asp?s=9942400>

It's called "sexting," or sending naked pictures of one's self to other people. But if you're under 18-years old, sexting can carry a heavy punishment.

A Copperas Cove teenager was charged recently when illicit photos of the teen were discovered on a friend's phone. According to Detective Lori Hix, the punishment for distributing naked photos can range anywhere from indecency with a child all the way up to distribution of child pornography.

"If you distribute that photo knowing that you take pictures of yourself and you are under the age of 18, then you are distributing child pornography," she says.

Hix says it's important for parents to be involved in their child's life and to monitor their electronic activities. "Parents want to have a lifeline to their kids and I can understand that. With that technology as far as cell phones go, there comes the responsibility about sitting down with your child and talking about what they should be taking pictures of."

It's especially important to know the consequences, which according to police can have kids as young as ten years old (which is the age of culpability) registering as sex offenders or be convicted of third-degree felonies. It doesn't matter if the photos are shared between two consensual teenagers as in a boyfriend and girlfriend, the charges still apply.

Neferti Arizola, a parent of an 11-year-old and an 8-year-old says she monitors what her children do online and with their phones. She lets them have a Myspace account, but she makes sure to go online now and then to see what her kids are up to. Still, it's hard to monitor *everything*. "It kind of catches you off guard because you can try to control those things as much as you would like to but it's not feasible to look over your kids shoulders...You just try to educate your kids."

**Safe and Drug-Free Quarterly Meeting
For Title IV: Safe and Drug-Free Coordinators**

**April 2nd 2:00pm until 4:00pm
Education Service Center, Region 20 Conference Center**

SAMHSA STUDY FINDS PRESCRIPTION PAIN RELIEVER MISUSE INCREASES AMONG YOUNG ADULTS FROM 2002 TO 2007

Adults aged 18 to 25 currently using pain relievers for non-medical reasons increased from 4.1 percent in 2002 to 4.6 percent in 2007, according to a report based on a series of nationwide surveys. However, this report showed encouraging findings among youths aged 12 to 17 in that non-medical use of pain relievers in the past month had declined from 3.2 percent in 2002 to 2.7 percent in 2007. The report released recently by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) says 1.5 million of these young adults used prescription pain relievers non-medically in the past month in 2007.

Overall, 5.2 million people aged 12 years or older reported using prescription pain relievers non-medically in the past month in 2007. Trends in Nonmedical Use of Prescription Pain Relievers: 2002-2007 highlights non-medical use of pain relievers in the past month among persons aged 12 or older.

Other findings include:

- * Among youths aged 12 to 17, non-medical use of pain relievers in the past month declined from 3.2 percent in 2002 to 2.7 percent in 2007.
- * Use among adults aged 26 or older increased from 1.3 percent to 1.6 percent; and
- * The rate of use among males aged 12 or older increased from 2.0 percent in 2002 to 2.6 percent in 2007 but did not change significantly for comparably aged females.

The report is drawn from SAMHSA's 2002 through 2007 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) which collected data from a total sample of approximately 405,000 persons representative of the United States civilian, non-institutionalized population aged 12 or older.

The full report is available on the Web at: [Http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/painRelievers/nonmedicalTrends.cfm](http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/painRelievers/nonmedicalTrends.cfm)

Copies may be obtained free of charge by calling SAMHSA's Health Information Network at 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727).

For additional information about prescription drug safety, please visit <http://www.samhsa.gov/rxsafety/>.

SUICIDE STUDY SHOWS NEW HIGHER NUMBERS; ONE-THIRD OF DEATHS UNKNOWN TO RELEVANT STATE AGENCY

A report published by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs (produced by the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives) shows an increase in the estimated number of suicides among juveniles in confinement compared to past years.

The author of the report notes that "More than one-third of suicides identified in this study were unknown to government agencies responsible for the care and advocacy of confined youth," and calls for a stricter review of deaths occurring within juvenile facilities.

For the full article, visit: http://www.youthtoday.org/talk/comments.cfm?blog_id=87

SOURCE: The Weekly Spark, Suicide Prevention Resource Center

Ease enforcement of Web use policy by updating terms

Source: Maintaining Safe School, LRP Publications, March 2009

Advancing technology and increasing Internet-related claims are reinventing some safety terminology. School officials are facing old challenges in new, high-tech forms, such as cyberbullying and online cheating. Meanwhile, computer security breaches, malware, and illegal file swapping present safety concerns.

Administrators often need to make tough calls on whether it's more important to respect a student's First Amendment rights or ensure student safety. You can violate students' First Amendment rights by suppressing freedom of speech, said Suzanne Bogdan, chair and partner of the education practice group in the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Office of Fisher & Phillips LLP, a national labor and employment law firm. Also, "there are Fourth Amendment search and seizure concerns," she said.

You can reduce some of this controversy clarifying safety policy terms that are most often challenged in court. Communicating safety precautions effectively in an Internet-use policy can help clear gray areas so litigants don't dispute such interpretations in court. Also, distinguish between offensive language and opinions that disagree with school philosophy before prohibiting inappropriate online messages.

For example, Pennsylvania school authorities couldn't prove a student's online post attributing vulgar statement to his principal were disruptive enough to threaten school safety. The U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania ruled the district violated the First Amendment in *Layshock v. Hermitage Sch. Dist.*, 107 LRP 38546, 496 F. Supp. 2d 587 (W.D. Pa. 2007).

On the other hand, Connecticut officials produced evidence showing a student's off-campus blog triggered an overwhelming number of phone calls that disrupted school operations. A U.S. District Court judge rejected a claim that school authorities violated a student's free speech right by disqualifying her from running for student office because of a vulgar blog about school officials in *Doninger v. Niehoff*, No. 3:07CV1129(MRK), 109 LRP 2317 (D. Conn. 01/15/09).

Bogdan offered the following tips to help you revise an acceptable Internet use policy to address online safety challenges:

- **Meet with a school attorney so you Internet-use policy fits current school needs.**
- **Define terms carefully.** Explain how you interpret words like bullying and harassment. These definitions are challenged in many court cases.
- **Clearly inform students what they can and can't do online.** For example, decide whether to let students e-mail classmates at school. Some officials restrict all campus Internet use to school-related activities.
- **Prohibit offensive language.** For example, state that "intimidating language or communications that violate another student or staff member's civil rights is prohibited," Bogdan suggested. Tell students to use only civilly appropriate language.
- **Notify students about routine monitoring.** Tell students that regular computer maintenance and monitoring could uncover inappropriate online activities. This limits the amount of privacy they can reasonably expect. Under the Fourth Amendment, a person's privacy is protected depending on how much they could reasonably expect in different situations.
- **Advise students of protective monitoring.** Your computer technology manager would know how to monitor student online activity, but be careful about asking him to conduct individual searches. Most schools base their search policy on the Supreme Court case *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 106 LRP 2727469, U.S. 325, 341-42 (1984), which allows administrators to conduct an individual search if there's a good reason to suspect a student is breaking the law or school rules. For example, if a student reports cyberbullying, you may have reasonable suspicion to search the offending student's online activities. But be careful – if no reasonable suspicion exists that a student is breaking the law or school rules, you could be violating his privacy rights by using technology to selectively search his communications.
- **Include a notice about consequences.** Inform students that they could face consequences for making offensive statements online and that they could be prosecuted in court for Internet abuse. For example, it's illegal to threaten someone. Specify Internet offenses based on local law. Clarify whether school officials will address disruptive off-campus communications about staff and students.

Upcoming Events and Trainings

March

Family Violence & Sexual Assault Part III: People with Disabilities and Older Adults, Victim Resources, & Community Coalitions

March 24, 2009

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; ESC-20

Workshop# CF90324-K01

Fee: No Cost

Ethics for Law Enforcement

March 31, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; ESC-20

Workshop # CA90331-K11

Fee: \$35; SDFSC Co-op and

REMS Consortium: No Cost

Bullying and Violence Intensive: From Awareness to Action

March 25, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; ESC-20

Workshop # CA90325-K11

Fee: \$75; REMS Consortium: No Cost

April

SDFSC Quarterly Meeting

April 2, 2009

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; ESC-20

Workshop # CA90402-K11

Fee: No Cost

411 on Drugs

April 14, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; ESC-20

Workshop # CA90414-K11

Fee: \$35; SDFSC Co-op: No Cost

411 on Teen Relationships

April 14, 2009

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; ESC-20

Workshop # CA90414-K12

Fee: \$35; SDFSC Co-op: None

411 on Bullying

April 21, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; ESC-20

Workshop # CA90421-K11

Fee: \$35; SDFSC Co-op: No Cost

411 on Gangs and Violence

April 21, 2009

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; ESC-20

Workshop # CA90421-K12

Fee: \$35; SDFSC Co-op: None

SDFSC Co-op:

If your school is located within the following district areas, then eligibility is granted unto the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Cooperative for the 2008-2009 school year. Specific course offerings are listed at no cost.

Brackett ISD, Crystal City ISD, Devine ISD, D'Hanis ISD, Dilley ISD, Ft. Sam Houston ISD, Hondo ISD, Ingram ISD, Knippa ISD, Lackland ISD, La Vernia ISD, Lytle ISD, Natalia ISD, Pleasanton ISD, Poth ISD, Randolph Field ISD, Southside ISD, Stockdale ISD, School of Excellence, Guardian Angel Academy, Por Vida Academy, Southwest Preparatory, Gabriel Tafolla, John H. Wood, Jubilee Academy, Positive Solution, George I. Sanchez
