

## 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 and NIFC= Nude in Front of Camera

*For more translations, visit [netlingo.com](http://netlingo.com)*

☞ **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 too.**

☞ **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.**

