SEXTING AND CYBER BULLYING

This fact sheet deals with cyber bullying. This information sheet details laws in Victoria as at April 2012.

Disclaimer: The material in this fact sheet is intended as a general guide only. You should not act of the basis of this information in this fact sheet without first getting legal advice about your own particular situation.

SEXTING

What is sexting?

Sexting is a form of child pornography and is illegal.

Sexting is sending photos by phone or over the internet of young people under the age of 18 who are naked or posing in a sexual manner. This means you cannot take, receive or send photos of yourself or friends, with or without their permission.

If you are found keeping or sending photos of a sexual nature of people under 18 years of age on your mobile phone or computer, you can be charged with child pornography.

Sexting is a serious crime.

Sexting offences have very high penalties. If you are found guilty, then it can affect the rest of your life. You may be registered as a sex offender, which may stop you from getting work in the future.

What should I do if someone sexts me a photo?

- Delete the photo immediately.
- Tell the person to stop sending you images or block the person.
- DON’T keep, forward or upload the photo.

CYBER BULLYING

Cyber bullying is harmful and in extreme cases can lead to suicide. Don’t put up with it. If you are experiencing bullying, there is help to stop it. Speak to a parent, someone you trust, or contact one of the services listed here.

What is cyber bullying?

Cyber bullying is when a person uses mobile phones, Facebook or other internet sites send messages or post photos that embarrass or humiliate you or make you feel afraid.

How can I prevent cyber bullying?

Here are a few tips to help prevent cyber bullying.

- Don’t share your passwords.
- Don’t give up information that you want to keep private.
- Check your privacy settings on all your social networking sites.
- Don’t forward on messages or pictures that may be offensive or upsetting to someone.

What can I do if I am being bullied?

- Block the person
- Keep a copy of texts, emails or posts
- Report it to your school
- Get help immediately
- Report it to your ISP and/or phone provider or website administrator.
- Report any sexting or threats to your safety to the police.
WHERE CAN I GO FOR TO FIND OUT MORE?

Cybersmart Online Helpline for children and young people
Tel: 1800 551 800.

Bullying. No way!: is a website created by Australia’s school community to address bullying.
Go to: www.bullyingnoway.com.au

Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (DSCV)
The DSCV offers mediation services to resolve and reconcile incidents of bully.
The DSCV has offices across Victoria call the central number to find a service closest to you.
Tel: 1800 658 528
www.disputes.vic.gov.au

Office of the Privacy Commissioner: this website has a number of resources you may find useful including online privacy tools. Go to:

GETTING LEGAL HELP

Youthlaw
If you are under 25, you can get free and confidential legal advice.
Drop-in: 2-5pm, Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
At Frontyard Youth Services
19 King Street Melbourne

For legal information:
: (03) 9611 2412 (9am-5pm, Mon- Fri)
: info@youthlaw.asn.au
: www.youthlaw.asn.au

Victoria Legal Aid - Legal Help
For legal information, referrals or Victoria Legal Aid appointments.
Tel: (03) 9269 0120
Country callers: 1800 677 402