



Texting, emailing, DMing, or otherwise sharing an intimate image of yourself with another person is sometimes called sexting. You have done nothing wrong if you have taken an intimate photo or video of yourself. It is also not your fault if someone has shared that photo or video without your permission.

If someone has shared an intimate image of you without your permission or is threatening to share an image, we encourage you to talk to a trusted adult, supportive community organization, or other supportive service. You do not have to go through this alone, the Journey Project is here to support you.

Get In Touch

Contact Information

If you would like to speak with a Legal Support Navigator at the Journey Project, you can reach us through email, text, phone, or social media.



Phone:
709-722-2805
Toll-free: 1-833-722-2805



Text:
709-986-2801



E-mail:
support@journeyprojectnl.com



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The Journey Project

**Intimate Images
and the Law**

Legal Information
for Youth (under age 18)

What is an intimate image?

An intimate image is defined by law as any:

- photo
- video
- other visual recording

An intimate image shows a person's:

- genitals
- anal region
- breasts; or
- involves persons engaged in sexually explicit activity.

Sharing intimate images without consent

It is against the law to share an intimate image of anyone of *any* age without their consent, if they thought the image was private when it was made, and they thought it would stay private.

Sharing, showing, sending, texting, emailing, or messaging intimate images without permission is called distribution of intimate images. It is a crime under section 162.1 (1) of the Criminal Code and is sometimes called "revenge porn".

What is consent?

Consent is when a person communicates that they agree to take part in a specific sexual activity, including sexual activity that takes place online.

If a person has an intimate image of someone else on their phone, computer, or anywhere else, it is their responsibility not to share or show that image unless the person in the image has given their consent to do so. Sharing that image without consent could lead to a criminal charge.

As well, if the person in the image is under the age of 18, the person who shared the image could be charged with possession of child pornography under section 163.1 of the Criminal Code.

To learn about the age of consent, and situations when a person cannot legally consent, visit:
www.journeyproject.ca

To find out what legal options may be available if your image has been shared without consent, visit:
www.journeyproject.ca

What if I *consensually* send someone an intimate image?

While it is common for people to send intimate images, for example sexting or sending nudes, it is not necessarily clear how the law applies to situations of consensual sexting among youth under the age of 18.



If a young person takes an intimate image of themselves chooses to send it to another person (for example through a text or DM), child pornography laws may apply. However it is unclear if the police would choose to lay criminal charges against the person who took and sent the image.