

# Sexting

## Prevention advice for parents, children and young people

### Information

#### Description

The term "sexting" is a blend of 'sex' and 'texting' and refers to the sending of sexually explicit photos or videos of oneself using a computer or smartphone. Such material may include photos of people in swimwear and/or underwear or nude images of certain parts of the body, such as topless shots.

#### Legal classification

If you receive sexually explicit pictures and then forward them to someone else without the consent of those depicted, you will be in contravention of the **'right to one's own image' doctrine** under Sections 22 and 23 of the German Art Copyright Act (*KunstUrhG*) read with Section 33 of the Act) and possibly also the **'intimate privacy'** rule within the meaning of Section 201a of the German Criminal Code (*StGB*).

#### What to do if photos/videos are circulated without your consent?

#### Find out more

National crime prevention programme, (ProPK) [Online advice for youngsters and adults](#) (current to September 2023)

Online article, '[Sexting](#)', published on the ProPK website for children and young people 'Police is there for you' (current to September 2023)

- > Report photos/videos to the relevant service provider. and have them removed.
- > Contact a lawyer to claim a violation of the right to your own image, on the grounds that nobody is allowed to pass on photos or videos without the consent of the person depicted.
- > File a complaint with the police if photos/videos that violate your 'intimate privacy' have been forwarded without your consent. This refers to images taken in the private sphere, such as your own home, toilet or shower.

#### Preventive action

- > Educate your children about the potential dangers of sexting. Once a photo has been sent digitally, its distribution can neither be controlled nor stopped.
- > To protect against unwanted distribution, it is best not to create or share such images in the first place.