



# Sexting



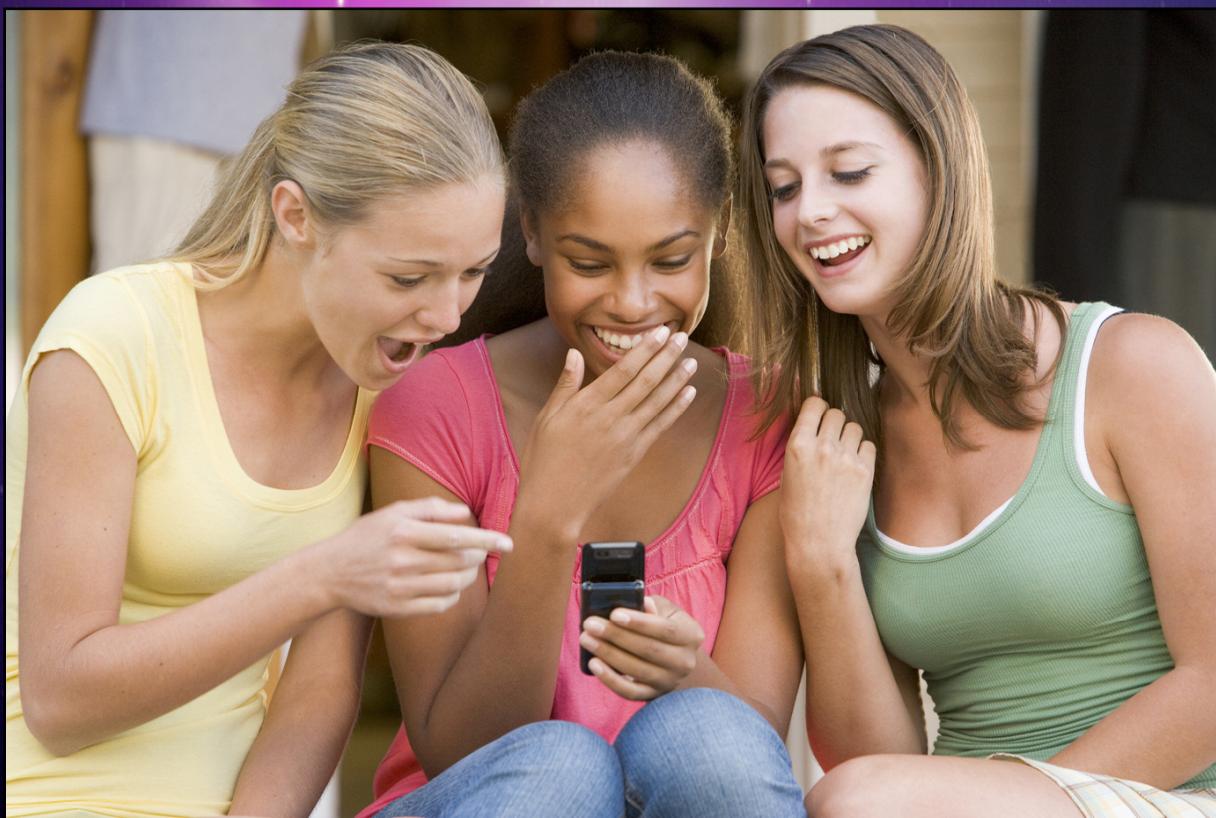


# Sexting



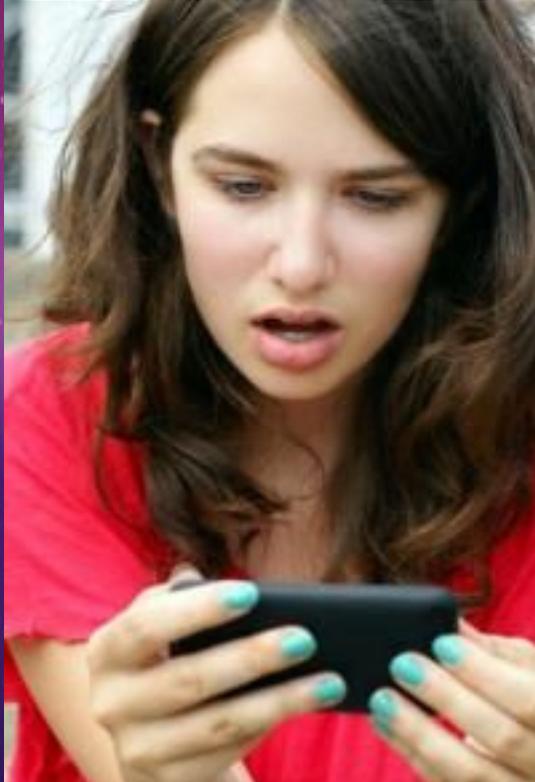
Sexting is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones.

Problem is, once sent they keep on being sent — to everyone.





# ONCE SENT IT'S OUT THERE – FOREVER



**Internet Photos**

**Sent-N-Sorry!**

OMG  
My mom saw it!

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a light green top, sitting on the floor with her hands covering her face in embarrassment. In the foreground, another person's hand is holding a silver flip phone, showing a picture of a woman's face on the screen. The background is slightly blurred, showing another person's face.



# Cell Phones



80% of teens 13-17 and 93% of young adults 18-24 use cell phones

48% of teens had been sexting

22% admit to sending nude or semi-nude pictures via cell phones



According to research published in the July 2012 issue of *Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, an astounding 57 percent had been asked to send a sext.

While most of these teens admitted to being bothered by the request, 28 percent of the students followed through and had sent a naked picture of themselves through text or email.



### FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, July 2010

Nearly one in six teens between the ages of 12 and 17 who own cell phones have received naked or nearly nude pictures via text message from someone they know.



66 % of teen girls and 60 % of teen boys say the most common reason they sextex is to be fun and flirtatious.

51 % of girls say they were pressured by a boy.

40 % of females say they have sent pictures as a joke.

52 % of teenage girls say they've sent pictures to their boyfriend as a gift.



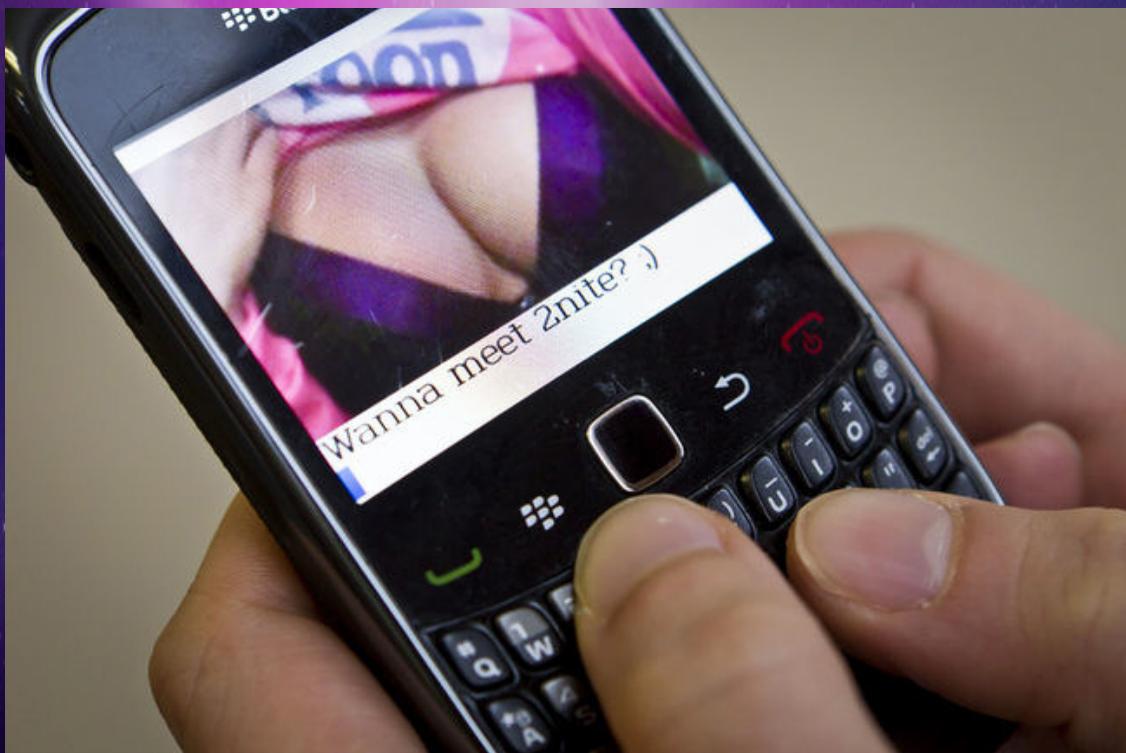
## Don't Do It

81



Don't take that first step  
Don't take that picture

Don't forward a picture  
Don't send a picture



Once you post a nude or semi-nude picture of yourself on the internet, it's out there forever ... the damage is eternal.



# **DANGERS OF SEXTING**



There's no such thing as 'just one photo.' It keeps getting passed around.





George Suchil exchanged text messages with a 16-year-old girl. The cell phone message exchange eventually turned sexual, with the 17-year-old Suchil asking the girl to send him a photo of her topless, police said.

The girl eventually agreed and took a photo of herself topless and sent it to Suchil. The guy then told her to send him a completely nude photo or he would pass the topless shot on to his friends' cell phones.

Police arrested Suchil and found besides the photo of the girl, at least five other nude photos of other minors on his cell phone.



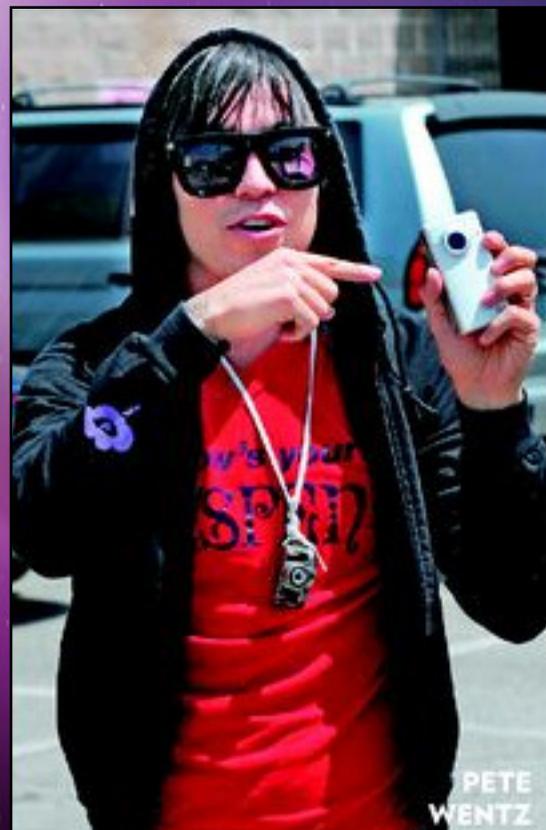
## Red-Faced Stars



Celebs have also learned the hard way about the perils of racy pictures.

In 2007 a nude photo of High School Musical star Vanessa Hudgens, which she had reportedly e-mailed to Nickiodeon actor Drake Bell, showed up on the Internet

In 2006 Fall Out Boy Pete Wentz had frontal shots of himself that appeared on the Web. "At the time I wanted to find a cave and hang out there for the rest of my life," he told Elle magazine.





## What a Difference A Day Makes

**Facebook, Twitter, E-mail.** On a typical day Ben Hunt and his best friend John Eicher, both 14, send each other about a dozen routine text messages. But on Jan. 15, while at school, Hunt sent Eicher something on his cell phone that suddenly put their futures in peril: a photo of a girl in their class exposing a breast. Eicher didn't see it as a big deal. "I really didn't think of deleting it," says Eicher, an eighth grader who at the time attended the Lawrence School in Falmouth, Massachusetts, with Hunt. "I was, like, 'Whatever.'"

But school officials, alerted to the photo by two students, sprang into action. They seized Hunt's phone, and the police arrived. It turned out the photo had been taken by another male student of his 13-year-old girlfriend, who had allegedly posed for the shot. The fact that both boys had received the picture unsolicited, and that Eicher had done nothing more than open the file, didn't matter. To the shock of the boys and their families, authorities initially said they were weighing whether to charge the teens and four other boys who had received the photo with trafficking in child pornography, meaning they could face jail time and having to register as sex offenders.



# Emotional Effects



Girls are only slightly more likely than boys to send nude photographs — but much more likely to suffer from the emotional effects if the images are spread such as: name calling from peers, humiliation and verbal harassment which can lead to depression, dropping out of school, — even worse: self-inflicted harm and suicide.



## Hope Witsell

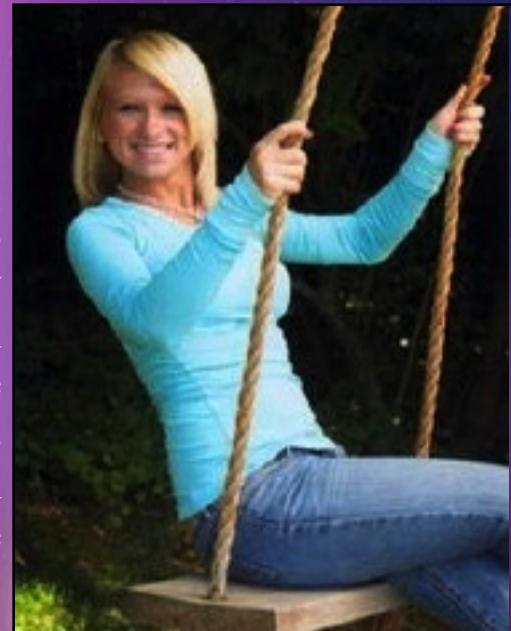


Hope, a 13 year old girl from Beth Shields Middle School in Hillsborough, Florida hung herself after nude pictures of her were distributed. Toward the end of the school year, Hope sent a nude picture of herself to a boy that she liked and another girl found it on the boy's phone and forwarded it to other students.

The picture eventually began circulating around Beth Shields Middle School and surrounding middle and high schools in the area. Hope suffered from humiliation and verbal harassment at school and began cutting herself. Her depression and embarrassment eventually led her to hang herself in her bedroom.

## Jessie Logan

Jessie, an 18 year old girl from Cincinnati, Ohio, hung herself after she sent nude photos to her boyfriend, Ryan Salyers. After they broke up, he sent them to other girls at her high school and they began circulating around the school. She suffered from humiliation and was tortured by the other students at her school, and eventually began skipping school so that she wouldn't have to deal with it.



On July 3, 2008, Jessica hung herself. U.S. District Court Judge Arthur Spiegel ruled that the girls's parents had submitted sufficient evidence to proceed to a jury trial. "This case established that school districts can be liable if they fail to protect students from sexual harassment at school. Governor John Kasich signed into law legislation named for Logan requiring schools to prevent bullying by all electronic means.



## Rehtaeh Parsons



The suicides of Hope Witsell and Jessie Logan should make us ask how the law could better deal with kids who maliciously circulate sexual photos.

Canada is in an uproar over whether a group of boys should be prosecuted for sending around humiliating photos of 17-year-old Rehtaeh Parsons, a girl from Halifax who said the boys raped her. And on Thursday, three 16-year-old boys were arrested in San Jose, Calif. for sexually assaulting 15-year-old Audrie Pott, who was also humiliated by online photos.

The worst of the awful similarities in these stories is that both girls killed themselves. Audrie hanged herself about seven months ago, eight days after the assault. Rehtaeh hanged herself last weekend, months after the police said they would not prosecute anyone. On Friday afternoon, the Halifax police, citing “new and credible information,” said they would reopen the case.

News Story By Emily Bazelon



## Megan Meier



Soon after opening an account on Myspace, Meier received a message supposedly from a 16-year-old boy, Josh Evans. Meier and "Josh" became online friends, but never met in person or spoke. Meier began to exchange messages with this person, her family said she seemed to have had her "spirits lifted".

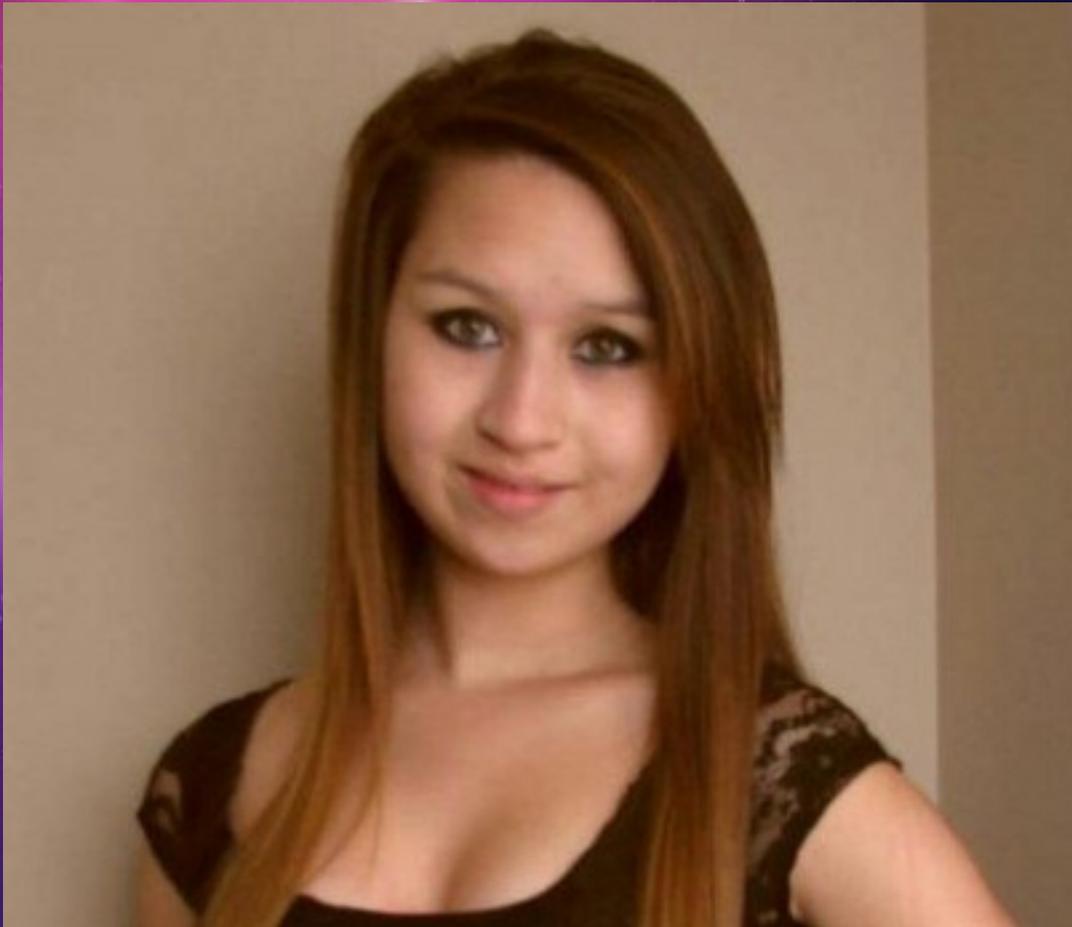
Lori Drew, aided by her daughter Sarah and Ashley Grills, an 18-year-old employee of Lori and several others ran the hoaxed accounts. Witnesses testified that the women used Meier's messages sent to the fictitious 'Josh' to get information about her to later humiliate her in retribution for her allegedly spreading gossip about Drew's daughter.

On October 16, 2006, the tone of the messages changed. "Josh" stated in a message sent to Megan: "I don't know if I want to be friends with you anymore because I've heard that you are not very nice to your friends". More messages of this type were sent. The last message sent by "Josh" read: "Everybody in O'Fallon knows who you are. You are a bad person and everybody hates you. Have a shitty rest of your life. The world would be a better place without you."

Meier responded saying, "you're the kind of boy a girl would kill herself over." Meier was found 20 minutes later in her bedroom closet; she had hanged herself with a belt. Despite attempts to revive her, Megan Taylor Meier was pronounced dead the next day on October

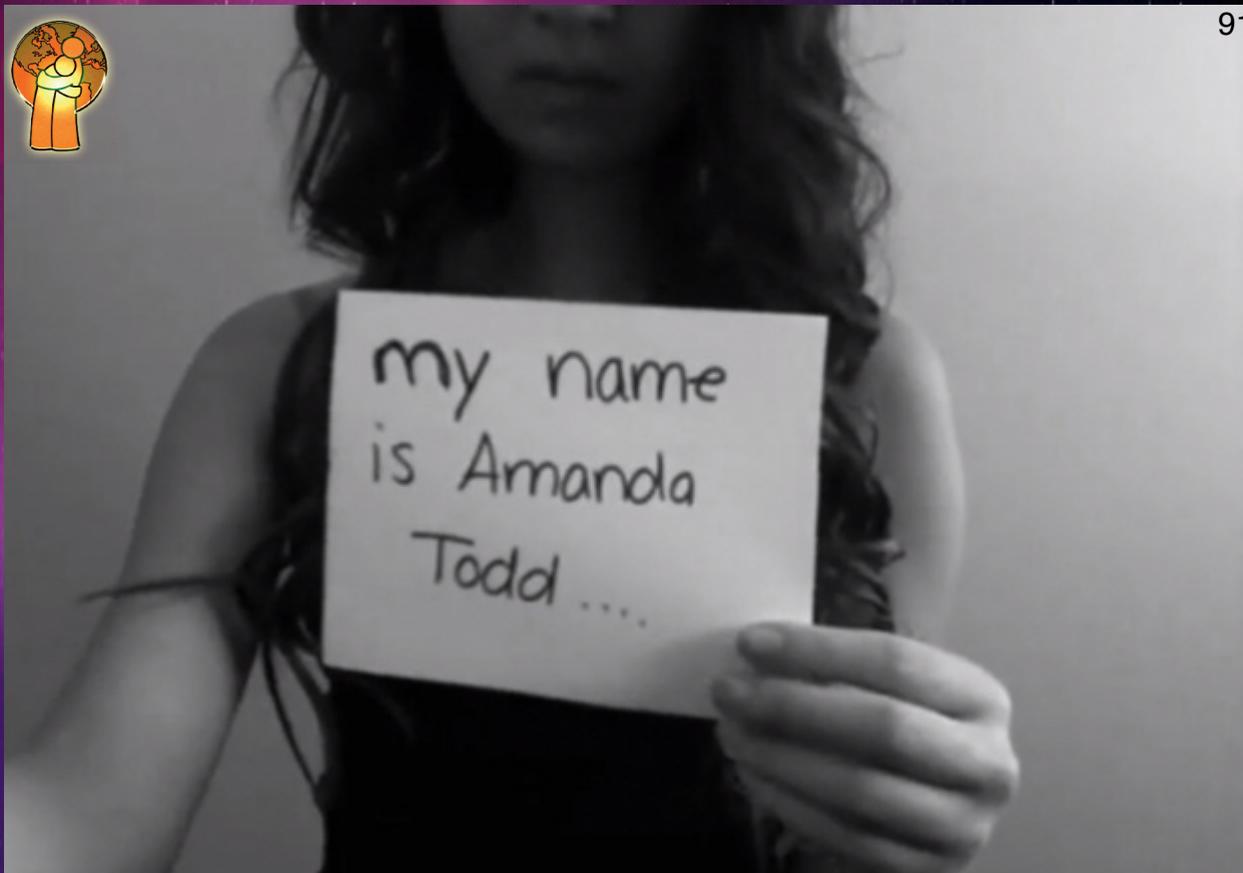


## Could This Be Your Story



TORONTO (AP) — Canada was in an uproar Friday over a 15-year-old schoolgirl who was found dead, an apparent suicide, five weeks after she uploaded a video to YouTube describing years of bullying that drove her to drugs and alcohol.

Coroner Barb McLintock said Thursday night that preliminary indications suggest the British Columbia girl, Amanda Todd, killed herself. Her school district's spokeswoman, Cheryl Quinton, confirmed the girl in the video was her.

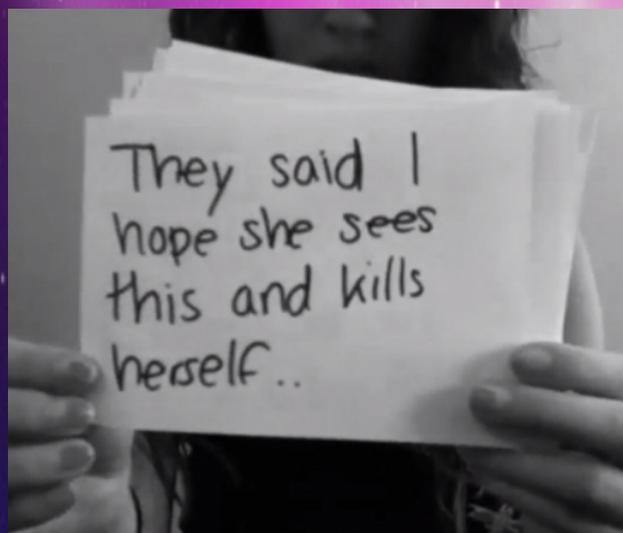
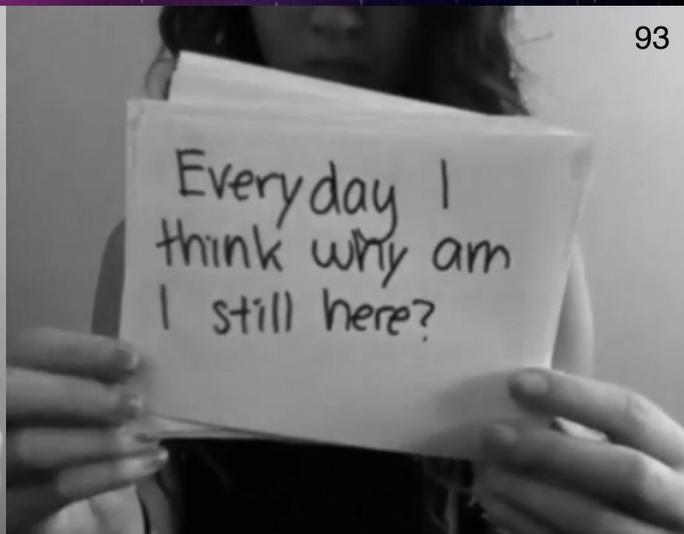


In the 9-minute video posted on Sept. 7, the 10th-grader and cheerleader didn't speak but told her story in haunting detail in a series of handwritten notes that she held up to the camera.

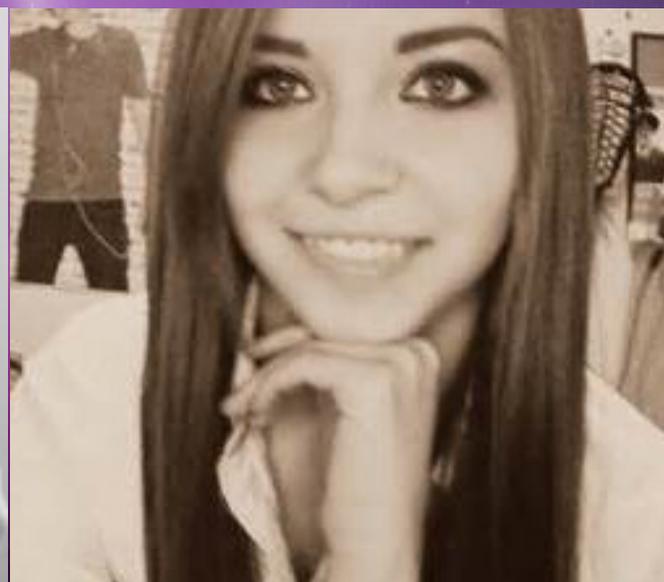
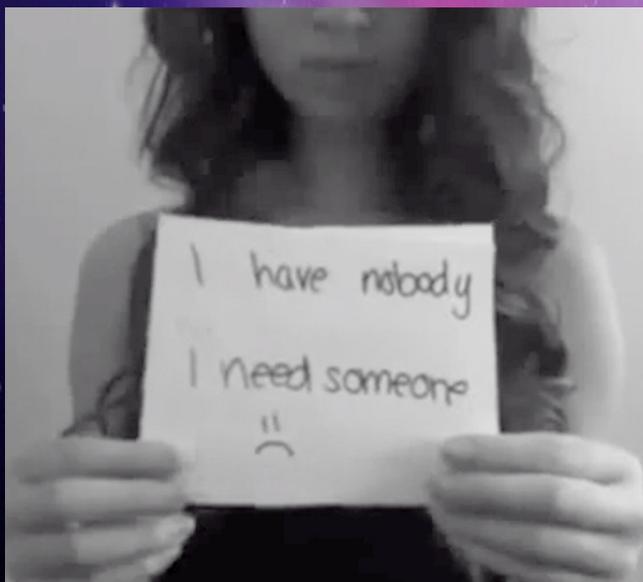
She said she was lured by a stranger to expose her breasts on a webcam and the picture ended up on a Facebook page made by the stranger, to which her friends were added. She wrote of being plunged into anxiety, depression, drugs and alcohol. She said she changed schools but an encounter with another girl's boyfriend started the bullying again, which this time escalated into a physical attack in which she said she was beaten.

When she got home, she wrote, she drank bleach. "It killed me inside and I thought I was actually going to die." She was rushed to a hospital to flush out the bleach. More anxiety, cutting and overdosing followed, her struggles with anxiety and cutting herself got worse, and despite counseling and antidepressants, she was rushed to the hospital again after an overdose. Coroner McClintock said she died in her home Wednesday. Her office released no other details.





Amanda Michelle Todd (November 27, 1996 – October 10, 2012)[3][4] committed suicide at the age of 15 at her home in Port Coquitlam, British Co-





## Girls Are Sluts Boys Are Show-Offs?

**One aspect of sexting is the double standard** – the same double standard that plagues all women. A boy caught sending a phot of himself might be seen as a show-off, but a girl whose photo goes viral is likely to be branded a slut. Sound familiar?

The reality is that teenagers are surrounded by highly sexualized messages, including endless songs and music videos that promote sexting. So it is all the more important that parents stay in touch with their teenage children, talk to them, monitor their behavior, let them know that sexting is dangerous and demeaning – in short, that parents do some parenting on this issue that is not going away.

**One day last winter** Margarite posed naked before her bathroom mirror, held up her cell phone and took a picture. Then she sent the full-length frontal photo to Isaiah, her new boyfriend. They broke up soon after. A few weeks later, Isaiah forwarded the photo to another eighth-grade girl, once a friend of Margarite's. Around 11 o'clock at night, that girl slapped a text message on it. "Ho Alert!" she typed. "If you think this girl is a whore, then text this to all your friends." Then she clicked open the long list of contacts on her phone and pressed "send."

**In less than 24 hours**, the effect was as if Margarite (14) had sauntered naked down the hallways of the four middle schools in the suburbs of the state capital, Olympia. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of students had received her photo and forwarded it.

## Sexting is Not Illegal But Child Pornography Is

Sexting is not illegal, but if it involves an under-18-year-old, then it may be child pornography. Rick Peters, a senior deputy prosecuting attorney for Thurston County, in Washington State, initially charged three middle school students with disseminating child pornography, a Class C felony, after they forwarded Margarete's nude photo of herself to hundreds of friends.

## Sexting And The Law



Adults with nude or semi-nude photographs on their mobile devices can be investigated and tried on felony child pornography charges.

Teenagers with photos of other teens aged 18 and under can be prosecuted and face up to 10 years in prison.



## Girls' arrests in Florida bullying case may mark turning point

*Tough stance by Sheriff Grady Judd in the Rebecca Sedwick case may reflect a shift in how law enforcement reacts to cyber bullying.*



The unprecedented felony charges against two young girls in Florida accused of harassing a classmate so much that she jumped to her death may mark a turning point in how U.S. law enforcement agencies react to the problem of cyber bullying and stalking.

Grady Judd, the sheriff of Polk County, said in an interview Thursday that his department had not yet completed its investigation when he decided Monday to arrest the minors, ages 12 and 14, after the older girl continued to post abusive messages about the victim, Rebecca Ann Sedwick, even after her death.

# Are Your Parents Overprotective?

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**Internet Photos**

**Sent-N-Sorry!**

From Fame...  
To shame  
In just one click!



**Can Ruin A Reputation!**

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If someone asks you to pose nude on your phone, iPad, or computer tell someone you can trust. Your life is not worth risking for some jerk.

*If your parents seem a bit overprotective  
be glad they care.*



## What To Do If You're A Victim



The damage has been done. You've sent nude or semi-nude pictures which have been circulated. However in most cases you will not associate with school 'chums' once you have gone to college, moved, or obtained meaningful employment. There is no value in recycling past mistakes, so bury the past and move on to the future.

Now you are free from a destructive relationship. Wonder what tragic life you would have lived if you married such a person: selfish, mean, self-centered, uncaring. Be glad that the parasitical relationship is over.

**Now it's time to get on with your life.** The chains that bound you to that person are broken. There are wonderful people to meet. New friends to make. Opportunities unexplored and a whole new future awaiting for you to take advantage of.