Megan’s Story
SEXTING AND THE LAW
DEFINITION

- The sending of sexually explicit photos, images, text messages, or emails by using electronics
70% of teens have admitted to sexting their girlfriend or boyfriend.

40% of all teenagers are estimated to have sent suggestive images or messages.

22% of teenage girls have sent sexts.

18% of teen males admit to sexting.
WHAT KIDS DON’T REALIZE

- photos can be shared with others without their consent
- pictures on the cyberspace remain there for anyone to misuse them
- Can result in extreme humiliation, stress and serious mental trauma.
- There are cases of suicides by teens who could not stand it when their photos were tampered or simply made public.
If the state has not specifically addressed sexting it will defer to its Child Pornography Laws to address the action.

States that DON’T have sexting laws:

- Washington
- Idaho
- Oregon
- Montana
- Wyoming
- Kansas
- Minnesota
- Iowa
- Arkansas
- Wisconsin
- Mississippi
- Michigan
- Ohio
- Kentucky
- Alabama
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- North Carolina
- New York
- Georgia
COLORADO

- Depending on the circumstances of the crime, sexual exploitation of a child in the state of Colorado is either a Class 3, 4, or 6 felony offense.
In Colorado, a person commits sexual exploitation of a child when that person knowingly causes or permits a minor (a person younger than 18) to engage in sexual conduct in order to make a sexual image of such a person, possesses or controls any sexual image of a minor prepares any sexual image of a minor for publication, distribution through electronic means, or possesses with intent to sell or distribute any sexual image of a minor.
THE CONSEQUENCES

- A juvenile who sends a naked picture of themselves to another juvenile is committing 3 felony crimes
  - Possession
  - Distribution
  - Manufacturing

- A juvenile who receives a naked image (even if not requested) can still be charged with possession
THE CONSEQUENCES

- If the sexts are unwanted by the receiver, the sender could be charged with harassment or sued in civil court for causing emotional distress or other damage.
CONSEQUENCES

- Because Colorado does not have specific sexting laws, you will be charged under the Child Pornography Act.
- Can be registered as a sex offender
- Can receive up to 30 to 100 years in jail
Living the Life of a Registered Sex Offender

Living arrangements:

- Local Law Enforcement must approve sex offenders’ residence and living arrangements.
- Offenders that move must re-register.
- Sex offenders often cannot own or control personal computers.
- If Local Law Enforcement permit access to computers, they normally must have blocks that prevent access to specific sites.
LIVING THE LIFE OF A REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER

- **Weapons:**
  - Felony offenders may not own, use or possess firearms or ammunition.
  - This includes people who hunt for recreational purposes.

- **Employment:**
  - Can greatly decrease the possibilities of certain employment.
BEFORE YOU PRESS
SEND
THINK
THIS COULD BE YOU
Jody Strouse
SB 94 Case Manager
13th Judicial District
WARNING:
SEXTING MAY CAUSE UNINTENDED SIDE EFFECTS & EMOTIONAL DAMAGE!
The story from a girl who had a photo of her passed around school and the impact that it had upon her life
You may feel or go through...

embarrassment or humiliation
break ups
ANGER FROM FRIENDS
acts of revenge/threats
reputations
You may feel or go through....

Feeling like an **object** rather than a **person**— assumptions about you that lead to victimization:

sexual assault or physical assault
You may feel or go through....

end of relationships - friendships dissolve, peer pressure

guilt and shame - regret, being able to tell/ask for help...impacts self esteem
You may feel or go through...

BULLYING
hopelessness - depression
alone & isolated
contemplation of suicide
Ideas of harming yourself in different ways
LIFE LONG CONSEQUENCES- NOT JUST TODAY OR RIGHT NOW!

- Education - college recruiters, scholarships
- Career - employers
- Family
WHAT WILL YOU DO??

1) Delete the picture & stay out of it. It’s none of my business.
2) Tell the person who is sharing to delete it immediately, tell that person it’s wrong & disrespectful to circulate it.
3) Warn the person who is sharing it of the legal consequences.
4) Tell the person who’s photo is being circulated and let them deal with it.
5) Talk with friends about what to do.
6) Ask a parent, teacher or coach or another adult whose opinion I value and get advice on what to do.