

SELF/PEER EXPLOITATION

IT'S **NOT** OK.

SELF/PEER EXPLOITATION

Over the last few years, there has been a significant increase in the number of reported cases of young people involved in *self/peer exploitation*. This type of exploitation, coined in the media as “sexting,” is generally defined as youth creating, sending or sharing sexual images and/or videos with peers via the Internet and/or electronic devices. *Self/peer exploitation* usually involves exchanging images/videos through cell phone messaging, messaging apps (on iPhones, Blackberries, Androids), social networking sites, etc.

In consultation with educators, law enforcement officers, crown prosecutors, child development experts and psychologists, the **Canadian Centre for Child Protection** has created two resource guides; one for educators and one for families to assist in managing *self/peer exploitation* incidents.

RESOURCE GUIDES

The purpose of the **Resource Guide for Schools** is to:

- help educate school personnel on this issue;
- offer school personnel a structure and framework for dealing with *self/peer exploitation* incidents;
- minimize the circulation of the affected youth's images/videos;
- minimize the negative impact on the school and community at large when these incidents occur; and
- challenge the normalization of *self/peer exploitation* and the misconception among youth who believe this is harmless activity.



The purpose of the **Resource Guide for Families** is to:

- offer families some practical guidance for supporting their child and addressing the situation;
- help reduce the potential negative impact on youth and their families if this occurs;
- help minimize the child's involvement in this type of activity; and
- offer families guidance that may limit the circulation of their child's sexual image(s)/video(s).

The guides are designed to assist schools personnel and families when responding to self/peer exploitation incidents, in addition to providing information on effective ways to prevent these types of incidents from occurring in the future.

The guides are available free-of-charge at protectchildren.ca/freeresources.

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