

STORIES

Kids can't talk their way out of what they have behaved themselves into. As far as the law is concerned, the following actual cases in Ohio illustrate this truth and can be used with the instructional activities. (See instructional activities pages.)

Cell Phone Videographer – While on a nearly empty school bus, a 16-year-old used his cell phone video to capture a couple performing a sexual act in the back seat. Two weeks later he wanted to show a teacher another video he had taken but cued up the sexual act instead. When the courts dealt with his case, he pled to a reduced charge but still was ordered to pay fines, court costs and restitution for unrelated charges. He was also placed on probation.

Babysitter's Costly Mistake – While flirting with boys over the internet, a 17 year-old girl was babysitting a 10 year-old girl. The flirting included exchanging nude and semi-nude pictures of each other. However, when the teen included a revealing picture of the little girl, she was eventually charged with Illegal Use of a Minor in Nudity Oriented Material. She pled as charged; she registered as a juvenile sex offender; she paid a fine, court costs, and was ordered to participate in the Felony Offender's program, 60 hours of community service. Moreover, she was placed in mental health counseling, placed on probation, ordered to write an apology letter to the victim, and was committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services for one year. That commitment was only suspended if she had no more violations and if she complied with all of the other punishments. On top of all of this, she was court ordered to give up her right to possess and use a cell phone.

Cell Phones Don't Lie – Two under aged students (male and female) were caught with nude photos of each other on their cell phones. Each was charged with one count of Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor. Each had to perform 100 hours of community service, write a paper, and relinquish their cell phones for 30 days because of this first degree misdemeanor.

Jilted Ex – Jill sent a nude photo of herself to a boy she was talking to. The boy sent the photo to Jill's ex-boyfriend who passed the photo on to another girl who hated Jill. The hateful girl quickly sent the photo to everyone on her phone list, and those people passed it on to infinity and beyond. No one was criminally charged in this case because of some underlying difficulties. No one is certain, however, how many bathroom walls contain her pic and phone number.

Passing Pics in Class – A girl sent her boyfriend a nude photo of herself while he was sitting in class. While the boy was requesting more photos, he was caught using his phone which was a violation of school policy. Because he was already on probation, the boy was charged with Illegal Use of a Minor in Nudity Oriented Material. So was his girlfriend. He pled to a reduced charge but was still under juvenile court restrictions even though he had turned 18 during this time. His girlfriend participated in the court's sexting diversion program where she was placed on probation, had to relinquish her cell phone for 6 months, and had no access to any social networking sites.