

Sexting: From Scandal to Opportunity

Ruthie Kolb

Training Manager

Colorado Youth Matter



Goal for this session

To be informed on the real risks, rewards, and lawfulness of sexting so that you can take steps to inform your policies and conversations to empower teens for online safety.



Objectives

Participants will be able to...

- Have better-informed and comprehensive conversations with teens about sexting and online safety.
- Take at least two steps toward improving the rights of teens for online safety.
- Describe the current laws as they relate to teens sexting.
- Discuss the dangers of penalizing youth for sexting.

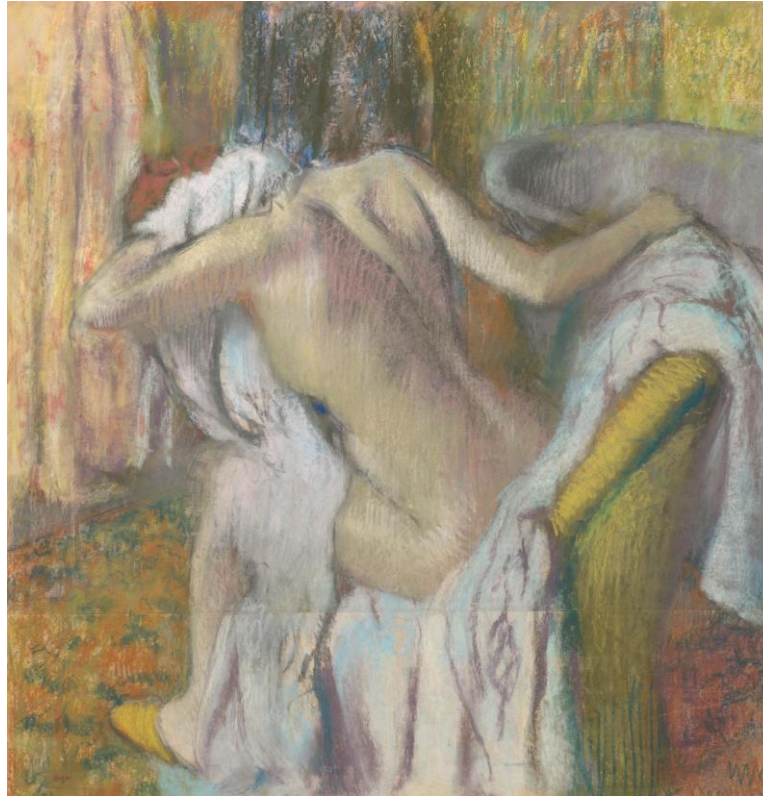


Group perspective

What do we think of when we think of sexting?



Historical Sexting

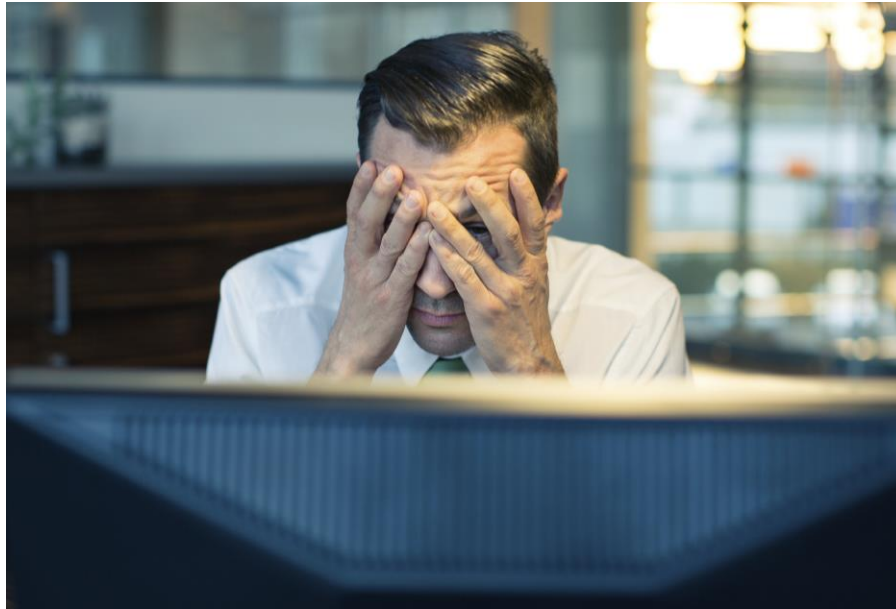


Our Framework

- Positive Youth Development
 - Strengths-based
 - Inclusive
 - Collaborative
 - Sustainable
 - Engage Youth as Partners
- Comprehensive sexual health education



Why do teens sext?



Why do Adults Sext?



AARP “Sexting Not Just for Kids” – July 2011

Why Do Adults Sext?



Statistics



Why teens say they sext

- 44% - Mutual interest between exclusive romantic partners
- 34% - To flirt with someone in whom I was romantically interested
- 15% - Compelled to respond
- 1% - Peer pressure

Strohmaier, H., Murphy, M., and DeMatteo, D., 2014 Youth Sexting



Benefits of Sexting

- Communication
- Pleasure
- Flirtation
- Low risk of STIs, HIV, and Pregnancy



Statistics



What is the prevalence of sexting

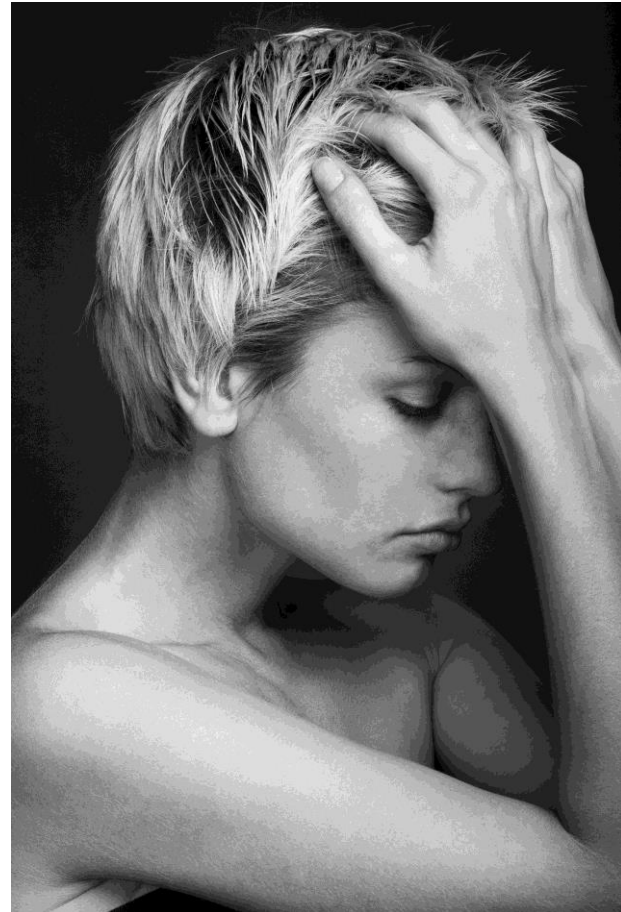
- 54% of teens sent sexts (with or without images) as minors
- Text sexting
 - 59% male to 54% female
- 28% of teens sent photographic sexts
- Photographic sexting
 - More than twice as many females as males

Strohmaier, H., Murphy, M., and DeMatteo, D., 2014 Youth Sexting



What Are the Risks of Sexting?

- Online predators
- Permanence
- There is no privacy
 - Sharing
 - Revenge Porn
- Law

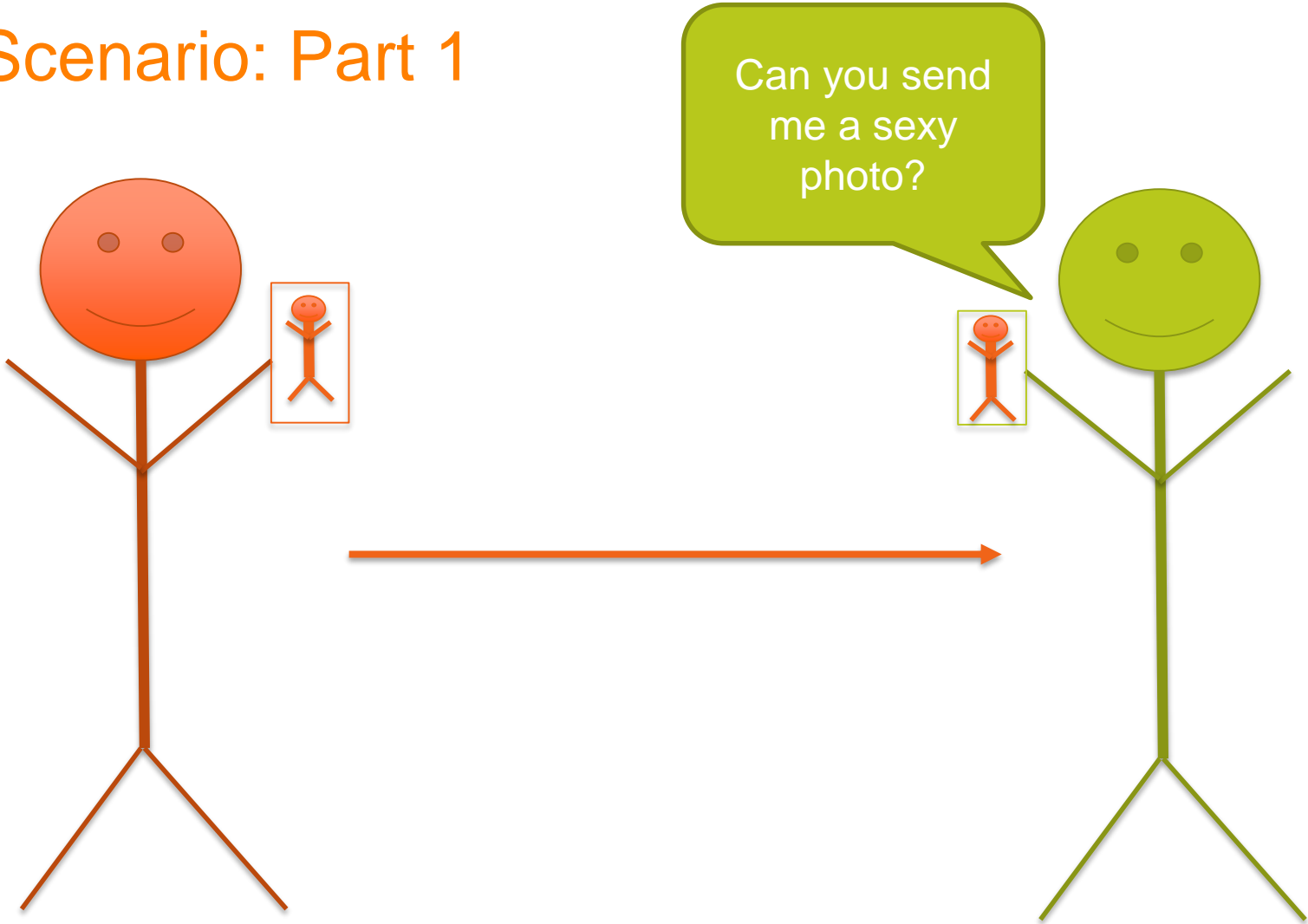


Federal Law

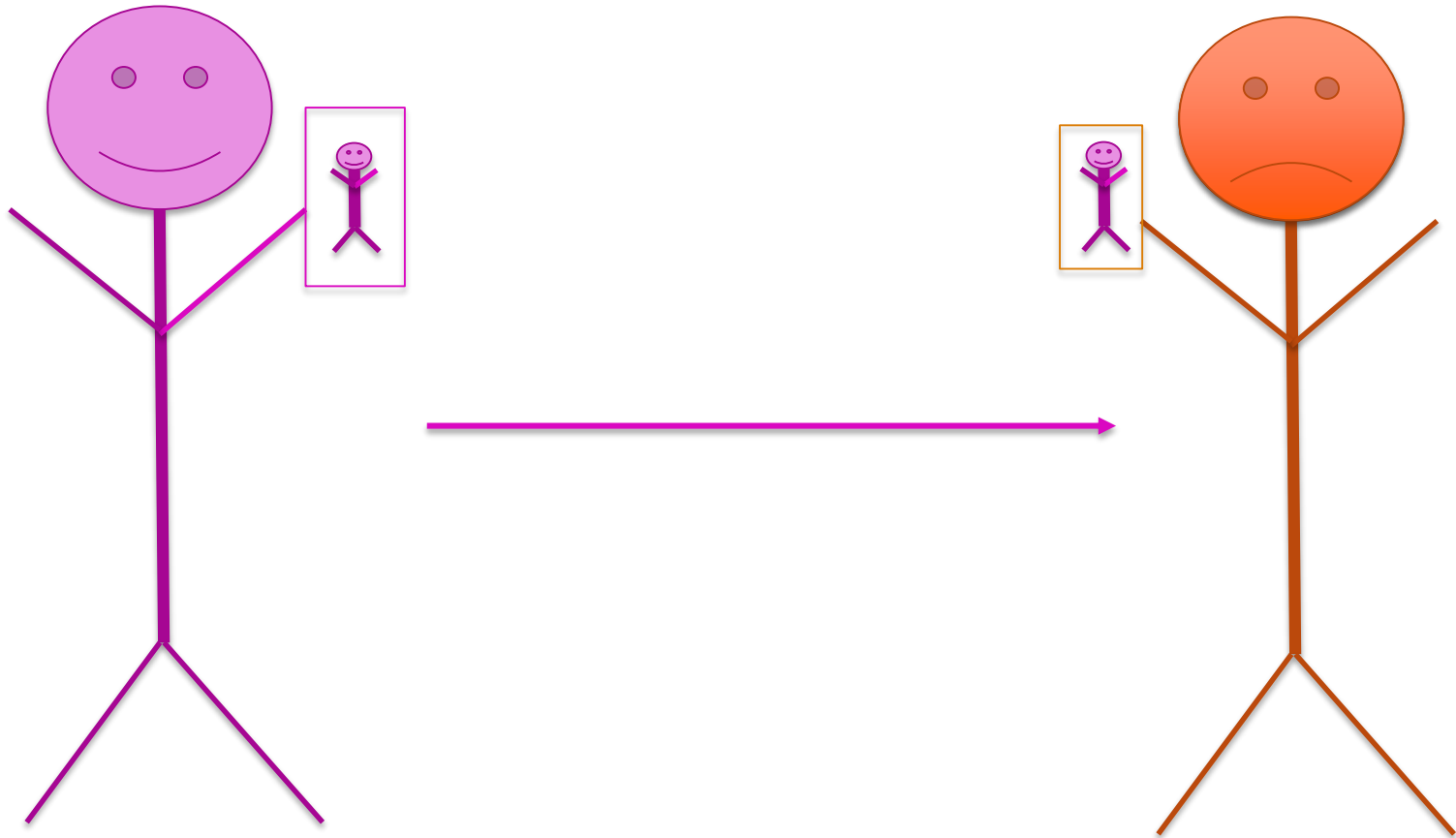
- Child pornography
 - Meant to protect youth from being violated by adults
 - Criminalizes youth – both as victims and perpetrators
 - Registered on sex offender list
 - No recourse for those whose trust is violated
 - Difficulty for mandatory reporters



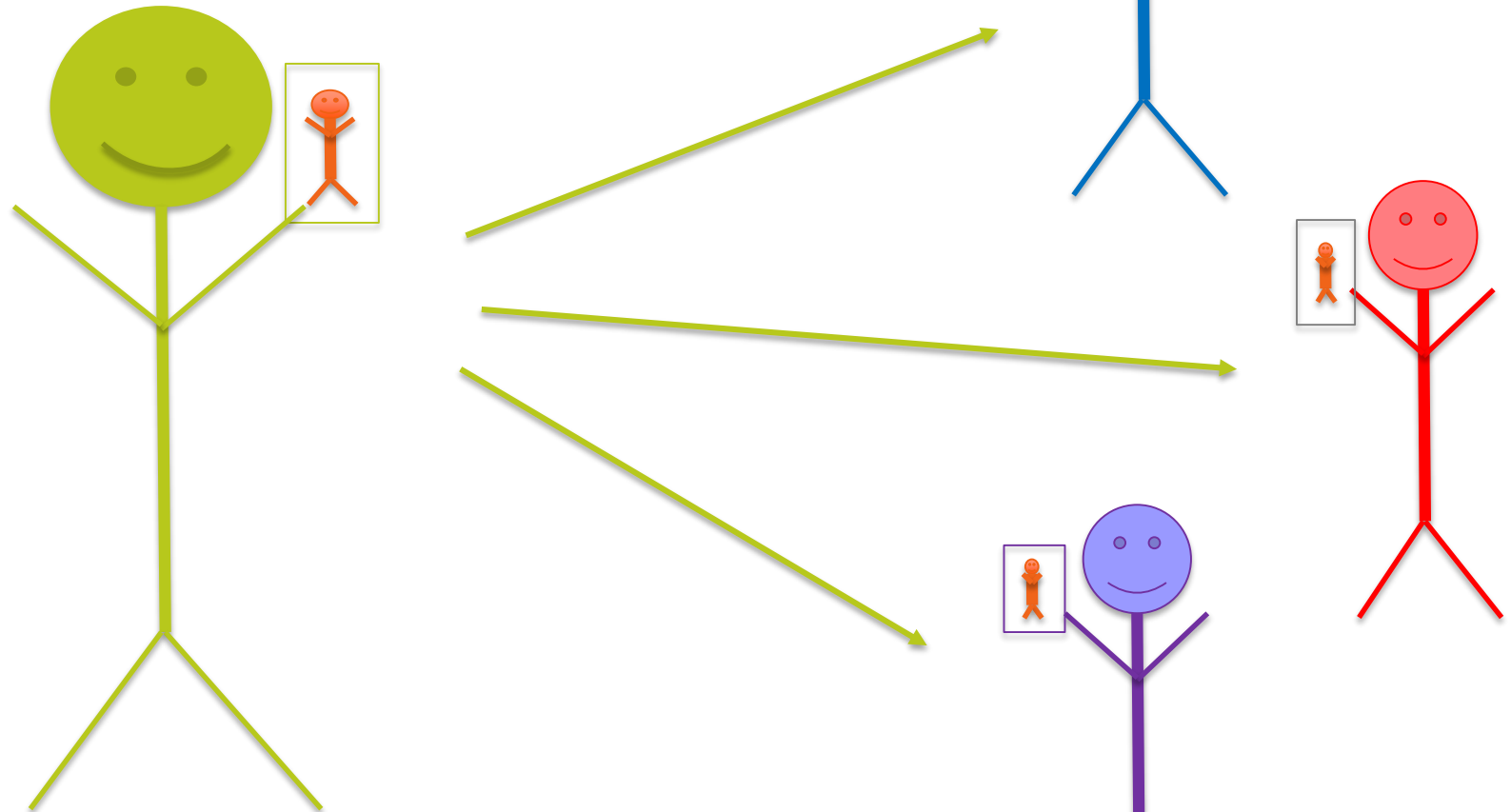
Scenario: Part 1



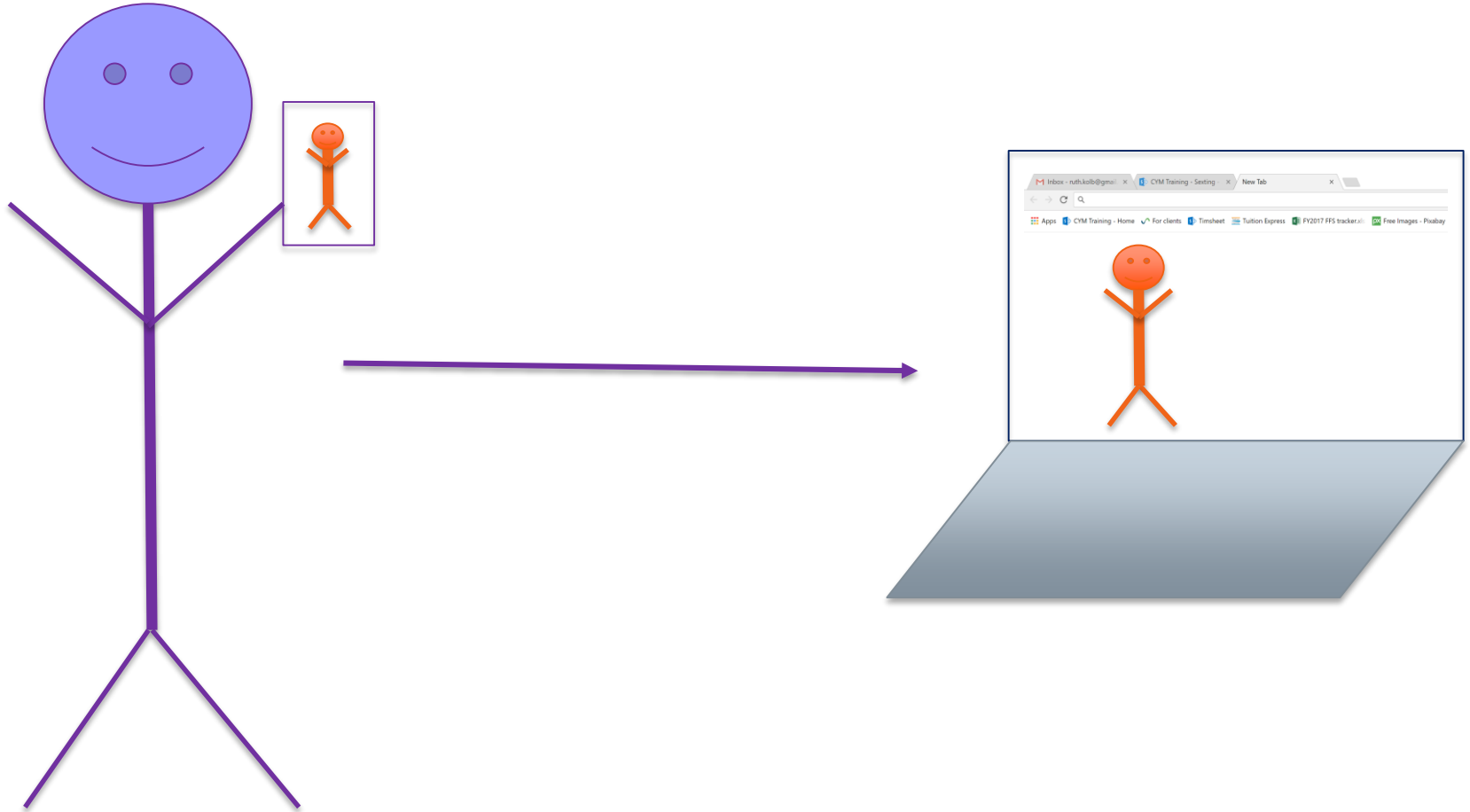
Scenario: Part 2



Scenario: Part 3

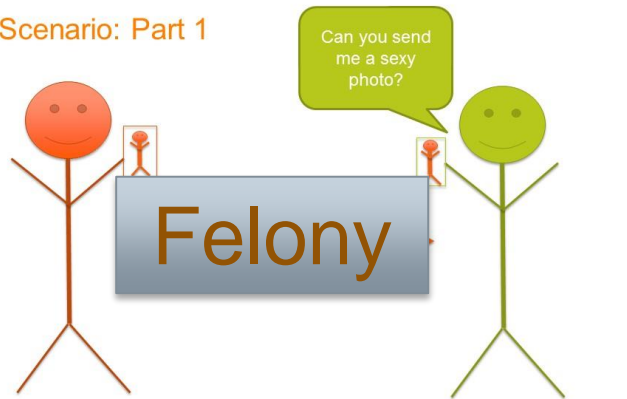


Scenario: Part 4

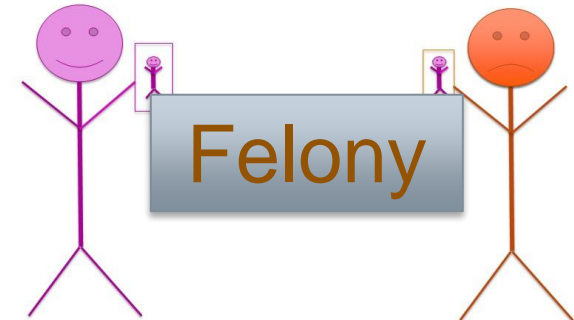


Where was the crime?

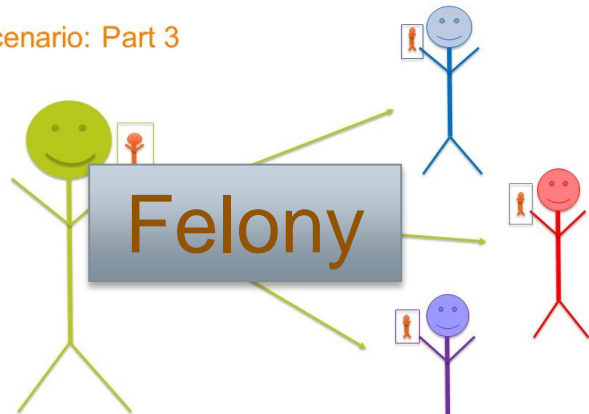
Scenario: Part 1



Scenario: Part 2



Scenario: Part 3



Scenario: Part 4



How common is the felony?

- From 2010-2015 there were 187 cases of minors being tried for the felony of child pornography.
 - Can't say what percentage were cases of sexting.



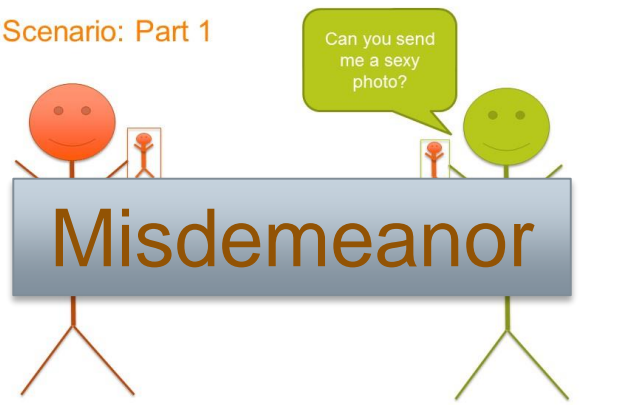
State Laws

- Some states have changed the felony to a misdemeanor
 - Broadens the scope of images that are included
 - Does not fully consider consent
 - Does not protect the creator
 - Still criminalizes youth behavior
 - Colorado has two competing bills that address sexting in this legislative session
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Misdemeanor Laws (CO HB17-1064)

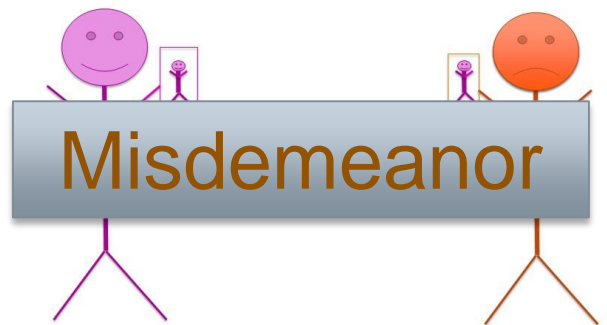
Scenario: Part 1



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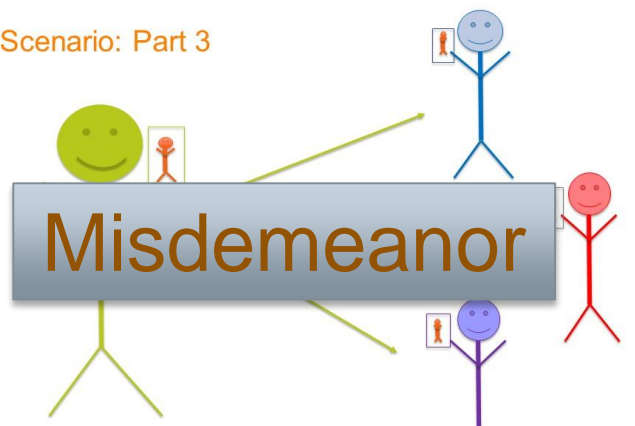
Scenario: Part 2



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Scenario: Part 3



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Scenario: Part 4



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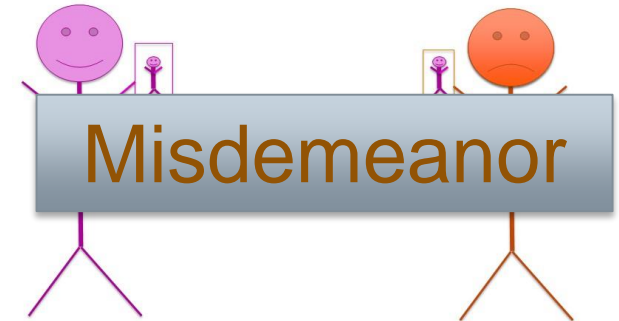


Colorado (CO HB17-1302)

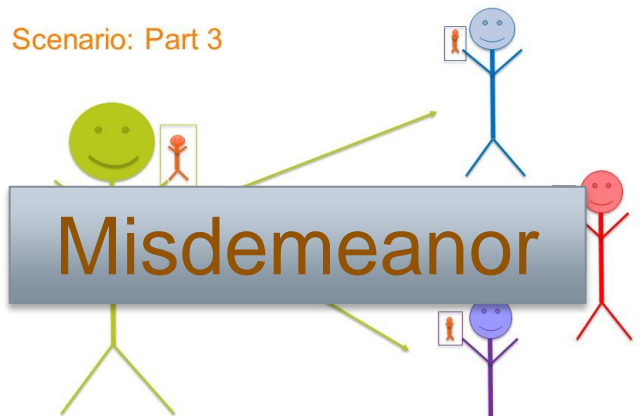
Scenario: Part 1



Scenario: Part 2



Scenario: Part 3



Scenario: Part 4



What Teens Are Saying



What Can You Do?

- Positive Youth Development
 - Strengths-based, Inclusive, Collaborative, Sustainable, Engage Youth as Partners
- Comprehensive sexual health education
- Make affirmative consent a standard
 - Teach youth relationship communication skills
 - Prepare youth for decision-making
- Be aware of our own slut-shaming
- Apply theories of sexual violence prevention education to media usage



What Can You Do

Improve the Rights of Teens for Online Safety

- Converse with & empower youth
 1. Discuss state and federal laws around sexting.
 2. Do you think sexting should be illegal for people your age?
 3. How do you know if an image you receive is intended to be private or if it's ok to pass on to your friends?
 4. What kind of images are the most and least likely to cause problems if someone distributes them? Does the person's gender make a difference? Is that fair?
 5. What kind of information and images do you have online that you think are important to keep private? How do you protect your privacy?

Hasinoff, A., 2015. *Sexting Panic*



Conversation 1

A swimmer asks you "My partner wants me to start sending them naked selfies. I don't know if I want to....Can you help me out?" How do you respond?



Conversation 2

A swimmer tells you that their naked photo was shared without their consent. How do you handle the situation?



What Can You Do

Improve the Rights of Teens for Online Safety

- Organizational Policy
 - Difficult to navigate due to laws
 - General media policy that is rooted in consent

For any type of media production, you must have consent to

- create media
- send media



Resources:

Albury, K., Hasinoff, A., & Senft, T. “From Media Abstinence to Media Production: Sexting, Young People, and Education. Pre-publication.

Basile, K.C., DeGue, S., Jones, K., Freire, K., Dills, J., Smith, S.G., Raiford, J.L. (2016). *STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Friedersdorf, C. 2015. “The Moral Panic Over Sexting.” The Atlantic.

Hasinoff, A. 2015. Sexting Panic: Rethinking Criminalization, Privacy, and Consent. University of Illinois Press.

Hoffman, J. 2011. “A Girl’s Nude Photo, and Altered Lives”. The New York Times.

Ringrose, J., Gill, R., Livingstone, S., & Harvey, L. 2012. A Qualitative Study of Children, Young People, and ‘Sexting’. A report prepared by the NSPCC

Strohmaier, H., Murphy, M., DeMatteo, D. 2014. “Youth Sexting: Prevalence Rates, Driving Motivations, and the Deterrent Effect of Legal Consequences”. Springer.