

INCLUSION AND STAYING SAFE

Can I trust someone with my private information or images?

KEY WORDS

privacy risks | sexting | trust | consent



Before you decide to trust someone with private information or images, you should know that sharing personal stuff can be tricky because relationships can go in all sorts of directions. Sometimes, what you share with someone today might come back to haunt you tomorrow, on purpose or by accident.

How can I keep my pictures and messages private?

Honestly — you just can't guarantee that. Sending pictures or messages to someone might feel private, but **once it's out there, you can't control where it goes**. Even with apps that promise privacy, like Snapchat, things can still end up in unexpected places. **Deleting stuff doesn't always mean it's gone** — other people can save or copy the image and spread it around.



How can I protect my privacy online?

It's really important to protect personal information — like your phone number, address, birth date, and photos with landmarks — that someone would be able to use to find you or steal your identity. Only post things online that you'd be cool with everyone seeing. Learn about **privacy settings** on social media, keep your **passwords super-secret**, and **let your friends know what's off-limits to post about you**.

What should I do if someone asks me to sext them?

Sexting relates to sending explicit material (either suggestive texts, or nude and semi-nude images and videos) through electronic platforms, such as messaging apps (to learn more about its characteristics, you can check out the text “What is sexting?”).

If someone, like your boyfriend or girlfriend, asks for explicit pictures, remember you have the right to say no to any form of sexual behaviour, including sexting. You always deserve to **feel safe and respected in your relationship**.



Before you decide to share anything private, ask yourself:

- **Is this what I want?** Don't feel pressured. If someone is pushing you or threatening to share your private stuff, he or she is not respecting you or your boundaries which is a sign of an unhealthy relationship.
- **Will it get shared?** You can't predict if someone will share your private messages. Even people you trust might do unexpected things, especially after a fight or breakup. Even if they don't share a private picture of you on purpose, their phone can get looked through by a friend, lost, stolen, or hacked and your pictures can be shared without your knowledge or consent.

Remember, sharing private materials or engaging in sexting might seem fun, but it can go wrong in many ways. So, think twice before sending anything that you wouldn't want everyone to see. Keep your private stuff to yourself to stay safe online.

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