



BARRINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 04/11/2014

For more information, please contact the office of the Chief of Police, David Dorn at 847.304.3303.

The Barrington Police Department is currently investigating a case involving the dissemination of sexually explicit materials by way of electronic means.

UPDATE - We are currently working with the Barrington 220 School District, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and the Children's Advocacy Center in Cook County. It is still too early in the investigation to determine whether criminal charges will be pursued. However, the Children's Advocacy Center is assisting us in this investigation due to the facts of the case and the ages of the individuals involved.

We will release more information when it becomes available. In the meantime, parents are urged to use this incident as an opportunity for discussion with their teens/students about appropriate technology use:

- Talk with your student and set guidelines on appropriate use of their phones. This means no inappropriate texts or embarrassing photos or videos. **Photos and videos have lasting effects when shared via social media.**
- Tell your teen that sexually explicit material of any kind is not allowed. Have your child "friend" you or allow you into his or her social media circle (Facebook, Instagram, KIK etc...). This will allow you to monitor for questionable activity.
- While they may not think it is a good idea, you must look through your child's phone and monitor his or her usage. If the device contains a passcode they should provide you with access.
- Establish real consequences when parental rules or boundaries are broken, and enforce them. A parent can cancel or suspend access to cell phone service if a child does not follow the established rules.

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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
TEL (847) 304-3460
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PUBLIC WORKS
300 N. RAYMOND AVE.
BARRINGTON, IL 60010
TEL (847) 381-7903
FAX (847) 382-3030

PUBLIC SAFETY
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POLICE
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- Teens should always **THINK ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES** of taking, sending or forwarding a sexual picture of someone underage, even if it is of themselves. Students can be removed from sports teams, face humiliation, lose educational opportunities and get in trouble with law enforcement.
- Teens should **NEVER TAKE** images of themselves they would not want everyone – classmates, teachers, family or employers – to see.
- **BEFORE HITTING SEND**, teens must know they cannot control where an image may travel. What is sent to a boyfriend or girlfriend could easily end up with other friends and their friends and their friends.
- If a person forwards a sexual image of someone underage, that person is as responsible for this image as the original sender. A distributor in this instance could face child pornography charges, go to jail and be required to register as a sex offender.
- Teens must **REPORT** any nude pictures they receive on a technology device to a trusted adult, such as a parent or a school counselor. They should not delete the message. Instead, they should involve parents or guardians, teachers or school counselors immediately.

The preceding suggestions are consistent with how this sensitive but timely subject is addressed in the counseling, health and library-media curricula taught in Barrington 220 Schools for students in grades 6-12. This message is a collaboration between district administrators and local law enforcement, realizing the partnership that must exist between police, parents and school officials to educate and help students protect themselves when using technology and social media.

