

SB365 – Informational – JPR – 2/11/2020

National Sexting Educational Programs

After conducting extensive research, we found that national sexting educational programs were limited. While there are many healthy relationships and safe dating curriculum that mention sexting, they typically only include one lesson or handout. There are three national programs already in existence that may be available to Department of Juvenile Services.

I. Cell Phone Safety and Sexting Course- Court Education Online Program

The [Cell Phone Safety and Sexting Course](#) is one of many courses offered by the Court Education Online program. This course was developed in collaboration with the Neuropsychology Center of Utah specifically for adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18. The program is web based and takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. There is a \$49.99 fee associated with the course, and both the adolescent and the parents are required to participate. Adolescents are required to pass a short multiple-choice exam in order to qualify for their certificate of completion. The course can be used to qualify for court ordered diversionary programs. While the course does populate when searching for classes that are permissible for Maryland, more research needs to be done to determine whether this course would satisfy the education requirement under the new bill.

II. Human Relations Media Videos

Human Relations Media has created an educational video entitled [Straight Talk about Sexting and Messaging](#). The video can be purchased for \$149.99 and is intended for viewers in Grade 7 through college level. The video provides real life stories that serve as cautionary tales, teaching about possible charges that may come as a result of sexting, complicated situations involving exes who threaten to release sexts, having to register as a sext offender for sexting, and depression that may result when one loses control of their images. The lesson on sexting exists as part of a larger curriculum Human Relations Media has produced called the [Cyber Safety Tool Kit](#). The Tool Kit includes five videos that discuss safe use of the internet and social media. The entire Tool Kit, including a teacher's guide, can be purchased for \$499.95.

III. Safe Sexting Classroom Activity Kit- Sex Ed Mart.com

SexEdMart.com has produced a [Safe Sexting- Classroom Activity Kit](#) to teach safe sexting to students in the classroom. The Kit costs \$32.50 for an online download or a physical copy may be purchased for \$45.00. The lesson is recommended for Grades 5-10 and takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. The lesson involves a game, where an instructor reads statements about sexting in different situations, and the students explain whether they agree or disagree. The game requires students to think critically about what it takes to use their phones safely.

IV. Other States Models

Other states have created online educational programs that teach their specific state's laws, but are discussed here because Maryland may be able to adapt such programs to education

teens in this state, or these programs may serve as an example of what program may be created to educate teens in the State of Maryland.

a. Texas

The state of Texas created the [Before You Text](#) program as a sexting and bullying prevention, education and intervention program. The program is entirely online, consisting of three modules that discuss internet stakeholders and human biases, defining and describing teen internet danger, and a teen's digital and criminal record. The program also teaches the terminology and the concepts of sexting; the consequences of sexting and the permanence of digital images. Students are required to take a short exam after completing the course and will receive a certificate of completion once they achieve a score of 80% or higher.