

# Is it **ILLEGAL** for young people to share nudes?



## Sharing Nudes of YOURSELF

Exploring your body and sexuality is a normal part of growing up! For some people, this includes experimenting with taking or sharing nudes.

Like with all sexual activities, sharing nudes comes with both **potential risks** and **rewards**.

**Before you send a nude, you might want to consider:**

- Are you being pressured to send or are you doing it because you want to?
- Does the other person have a plan to keep it private?
- Could you avoid sharing your face or other identifying marks/info in the pic in case it is shared without your consent?



## BUT... ISN'T IT ILLEGAL?

You may have heard that sending nudes of yourself when you're under 18 is illegal and that you could be charged with child pornography offences.

**This is NOT true.** In cases where youth take and share a pic of themselves consensually and privately with another close-in-age youth, there is something known as the 'private use exception' that allows youth to explore taking or sharing nudes of themselves without being charged with child pornography.

A youth has never been charged in Canada for sharing their own nude image consensually and privately!

For more info on what to consider before sending nudes, when it's legal, and for support if your image is shared without consent visit [kidshelpphone.ca](http://kidshelpphone.ca)

## Sharing Nudes of OTHERS

No matter your age, it is **illegal** to share a nude pic or video of someone else without their consent!

Sharing a nude or sexually explicit image of someone without their consent is a **violation of their privacy and sexual rights**.

People who have had intimate images shared without their consent sometimes experience anxiety, depression, and social isolation. It is a very harmful thing to do to someone.

## IS IT ILLEGAL?



**YES.** In Canada it is a **crime** to share a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit image of someone without their consent.

There are a few criminal and civil law charges that could apply, with the most common being the criminal charge of **nonconsensual intimate image distribution**. It is very uncommon for youth to face jail time in Canada, but being charged with this offence could result in anything from probation to up to 5 years in prison for the most serious acts.

In most cases with youth, there are ways to hold wrongdoers responsible and support victims without a criminal response. You can find more information about nonconsensual intimate image distribution and other forms of tech-facilitated sexual violence at our website: [DIYdigitalsafety.ca](http://DIYdigitalsafety.ca)

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