

Very few prosecutors, judges and legislature see the damage of our laws.

Vermont's Legislature is considering a bill that, if approved, would make the state one of the first in the nation to grant legal protections to teenagers who send sexually explicit photos and videos to one another with their cell phones. "This isn't an issue of whether it's a good thing or a bad thing – I think it's wrong – but the question is, do we want kids to be prosecuted, called sex offenders, . . . for consensual conduct? No," said Sen. Richard Sears, D-Bennington.

Pennsylvania - U.S. District Judge James Munley ruled against District Attorney George Skumanick, Jr., who has threatened to pursue felony charges against three teenage girls who appeared in racy photos that turned up on classmates' cell phones, from filing child pornography charges.

Florida - Lawrence Walters, an Orlando Attorney who practices First Amendment and Internet law, has been following the sexting trend and said, "It's a phenomena. Kids shouldn't be doing this – shouldn't be engaging in this type of behavior. But, using these harsh criminal laws for child pornography is a bit of overkill."

Ohio Legislature plans to introduce a bill that would make it a misdemeanor for minors to send nude images over their cell phones. Prosecutor Rachel Hutzler has asked legislators for change s in Ohio's law. Currently, minors involved in sexting could face felony charges under Ohio's child pornography law.

Alabama - Capt. James Majors with the Lee County Sheriff's Office said for a minority of offenders, "All they were guilty of is being in love. But, the law is an umbrella and everyone falls under it."

Vermont - A Senate committee has taken up a House-passed bill that seeks to decriminalize sex between consenting teenagers, so long as they're both at least 15 and within 3 years in age.

Indiana changed its law so that teens in "dating relationships" would not be prosecuted. Larry Landis, Executive Director of the Indiana Public Defender Council stated, "I think there is a view now that 'hey, maybe we overdid it on the sex offender registry.'"

Governors in seven states have signed bills that mean no prosecution for some teens or no requirement to register as a sex offender. States vary widely in how they prosecute consensual teen sex, which prosecutors refer to as "Romeo and Juliet" cases, but most (including Illinois) remain tough on teens.

For more information, articles, surveys, links, etc., please visit www.ilvoices.com

OTHER LINKS

Love Is Not a Crime
www.love-is-not-a-crime.com

Sex Offender Solutions & Education Network
www.sosen.org

Reform Sex Offender Laws
www.reformsexoffenderlaws.org

Citizens for Change
www.cfcoklahoma.org

Texas Voices
www.txvoices.com

Citizens for Change
www.cfcamerica.org

Resources & Facts on Sex Offender Laws
www.oncefallen.com

Constitutional Fights
www.constitutionalfights.org

Moral Outrage
www.moraloutrage.net

Families for Fairness
www.familiesforfairness.org

Not All Sex Offenders Are Child Molesters, Rapists or Sexual Predators.

Is Your Teen Safe?



Do we really know what our teens are doing? Do we know the consequences they may have to pay for their actions? The shocking truth of what our teens could be facing.

As part of the effort to support the happiness, well-being and freedom of children, we are committed to protect society and its children from the dangers of sexual harm. We are also committed to preserve civil liberty and genuine criminal justice. We believe many aspects of the current approach to sex offenders seriously undermine justice and make our society less compatible with the welfare of young people. These include state and national sex offender registries as currently structured, life-time civil commitment statutes for sex offenders after completing prison sentences, and the public shaming of anyone accused of illegal sexual activity. We support carefully limited laws that target harmful acts, not whole classes of people, and which rehabilitate rather than vindictively punish and shame offenders. We assert that only by supporting justice for all people can we maintain a safe society.

Are you aware that our teenagers are having consensual sex which could result in the older teen being convicted of sexual assault, battery or rape, a prison sentence and being listed on the Sex Offender Registry for 10 years, 20 years or a lifetime?

Are you aware that our teenagers are e-mailing and texting nude photos of themselves and others? This could result in both teens being charged with creating, distributing and possessing child pornography with time in prison and being listed on the Sex Offender Registry.

Are you aware that middle schoolers have been convicted and listed on Sex Offender Registries for pinching other middle schoolers on their rear-end?

Are you aware that a *VERY* large number of Registered Sex Offenders have never touched or raped anyone, let alone a child? But guilt by association on the Sex Offender Registry labels them all as a predator for life.

The current laws that label someone as a Sex Offender in the U.S do not differentiate. Whether you are accused of teenage consensual sex, urinating in public, mooning or streaking, pinching or touching someone or are a serial rapist, upon your return to society, conviction and sentence will be the same.

Unless the Illinois Legislators, Senators, Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor and Governor fix these current laws, every parent, child, teacher, daycare worker, coach, troop leader, pastor, medical worker and neighbor has a very good chance of winding up on the Illinois Sex Offender Registry.

www.ilvoices.com

- In Illinois, a 19 year old boy had consensual sex with his 16 year old girlfriend. He is now on the sex offender registry for 10 years with a felony charge.
- In Iowa, two 16 year old teens meet, date and have sex. It turns out the girl lied about her age, she was only 13, and he is now on the sex offender registry for life.
- In Georgia, a 17 year old boy had consensual oral sex with a 15 year old girl and is now serving a 10 year prison sentence for aggravated child molestation.
- In Illinois, a teen boy asked a girl if she wanted a ride. She declined, but because her little sister was with her, he is now a registered sex offender.
- In Georgia, a 17 year old female is on the sex offender list for having oral sex with a 15 year old classmate.
- In Ohio, a 18 year old boy was charged with unlawful sexual conduct for fondling his 14 year old girlfriend, who admits she was a willing participant, while kissing.
- In Massachusetts, 6 boys, aged 12-14, are facing child pornography charges for texting naked pictures via text messages.
- In Pennsylvania, 6 teens are being charged with creating, distributing and possessing child pornography after nude and partially nude photos are emailed to one another.
- In Florida, a 16 year old girl and her 17 year old boyfriend were charged with producing, directing and promoting child pornography after they photographed themselves having sex.
- In Ohio, a 15 year old girl was charged with felony child pornography for sending nude photos of herself to classmates in a text message.
- In Pittsburgh, a 15 year old girl was arrested for taking nude photos of herself and posting them on the internet. She was charged with sexual abuse of children and possession and dissemination of child pornography.
- A 20 year old and his 16 year old girlfriend took a picture of her orally touching him on a cell phone. He received a 3 year prison sentence and required to register on the sex offender registry for 25 years.

While most of us would not encourage this type of behavior, it is happening and it is a far cry from criminal. Most certainly, the punishment is not proportional to the crime.

Could you be a sex offender in Illinois?

Take the test and find out.

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you ever urinated in public?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you ever mooned someone in public?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	When you were in grade school, did you ever pinch or touch a classmate on the rear?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	When you were 17 or older, did you ever have sex with someone 16 or younger?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you ever made out in a car in a public place?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	When you were 17 or older, have you ever taken a nude or partially nude picture of someone 16 or younger?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	When you were younger than 17, did you ever post a nude picture of yourself online or through a text message?

If you answered YES to any of the above, according to Illinois law, you are a sex offender!

Looking at your parents or grandparents, did any of them get married at a young age? Today, they would be considered sex offenders.