



St. Clair County
Child Abuse and Neglect Council
"It shouldn't hurt to be a child".



Just for Teens

Know the Law.

Define your limits. Communicate your boundaries.

Teen dating violence is against the law and it can happen in person or electronically (Embed PDF Online Safety) including repeated texting or posting sexual pictures of a partner online without their permission.

- In December of 2001, a twenty-four-bill domestic violence legislative package was signed into law. In April 2002 the act became effective and means that dating violence survivors of any age in Michigan are now afforded the same protection under criminal law as domestic violence survivors, who are married, formally married, reside or formally resided with the assailant.
- The age of consent in the state of Michigan is 16 – which means (1) it's illegal to have sex with any person under the age of 16; (2) persons under the age of 16 cannot give consent to have or enter into a sexual relationship. A person under the age of 16 is a minor and any person who has sex with a minor may be charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct.
- Under Michigan law, sexting can be a violation of MCL 750.145c, which prohibits the production (20-year felony), distribution (7-year felony) or possession (4-year felony) of child sexually abusive material. This statute includes detailed definitions of each of the prohibited sex acts; reference: MCL 750.145c(b),(h),(m).
- A person that sends a sext message may also be charged with use of the computer or internet in the commission a sex offense under MCL 750.145d. Most cell phones today are so called smart phones, which contain computer processors and are wirelessly connected to the internet through the cell provider's network. These phones fall within the broad definition of a computer under the statute.