Serious Sexting-

RALEIGH, NC- There is a new trend amongst American teenagers, the trend is “sexting” and the consequences can be ruthless. “Sexting” is defined as sending a nude or semi nude photo via technology such as a text or an email. The idea may be appalling but the practice of sexting is becoming more of a norm for American teenagers. “Sexting” is a felony, if you are caught sending or having possession of a “sext” you could be charged with child pornography if the photo is of a minor.

In a nationwide survey by the National Campaign to Support Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, 20 percent of teenagers admitted to taking part in “sexting.” Cole Biggerstaff, a junior at Appalachian State says, “I have received “sext” pictures before, and I have forwarded them. A girl at my high school sent a photo of her bare chest to a boyfriend and he sent it to his entire contact list, needless to say it spread quickly, she was teased so abrasively she transferred schools.”

With the abundance of social networks and having the World Wide Web at virtually every teenager’s fingertips, it isn’t a surprise when a picture that was meant to be private spreads rapidly. The immediate response from other teenagers toward the individual in the photo is brutal. Hannah Mullis, a sophomore at Peace College says, “I knew someone from high school that sent a picture of herself to a boy and it was sent around, it was detrimental to her reputation and she was no longer respected by anyone.”

“Sexting” is becoming more serious each and every day, teenagers need to be more cautious and realize that these decisions will have a lasting impact and follow them for a lifetime. Hunt Harris, a sophomore at North Carolina State University says, “I think that “sexting” just really degrades any girl who does it, you never know who is going to be able to see a “sext.” I wouldn’t want to date any girl who tried to “sext” me, because I don’t think it is classy. ” “Sexting” can lead to serious problems in a person’s social life, family life, and it has led to suicide in a number of cases.