

Pornography and the Law: Information for Adults



An adult is someone **18 years old or over**.
A child is anyone **under 18 years old**.



What is pornography?

Sexual photos or videos of adults (over 18 years) who

- have no clothes on
- are touching each other's private areas
- are having sex

This kind of pornography is not illegal.



Pornography can be pictures in magazines, videos, cartoons or photos on the internet (looked at on a phone, computer or tablet) or DVDs and video tapes.

If you are an adult it is not against the law to buy or look at this kind of pornography.



The adults in the photos or videos must:

- be over 18 years old.
- say 'yes' to taking part in the video or photo
- say 'yes' to sharing their photos and videos.
- understand what sex is.
- want to have sex.

Sexual photos, videos or pictures of children are called **child sexual abuse images**. They are **ALWAYS ILLEGAL**.

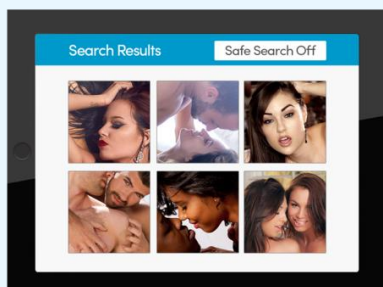


Children are protected by the law.

Child sexual abuse images are sexual drawings, cartoons, photos or videos of anyone under the age of 18.

It is **against the law (illegal)** to:

- Look at, share or make sexual photos, videos, pictures or drawings of children.



It is **illegal** to:

- Show another adult sexual pictures, photos or videos of children even if you know that person well.

It is **illegal** to:

- Ask a child to send sexual or naked pictures of themselves.



It is **illegal** to:

- send sexual text messages, called 'sexting' to children even if you know them well.

It is **illegal** to:

- to show *any* sexual images, videos, pictures, cartoons or drawings to children.



Remember: anyone under the age of 18 is a child.

If you look at, make, show or share sexual images, pictures, videos or drawings with children in it, you could go to prison for 10 years and be put on the Sex Offenders Register.



Some pornography is **illegal**. At any age, it is **against the law** to look at, share, show or make pornography if the photos or videos show:

- An action which may kill someone
- An action which causes serious injury to someone
- Someone having sex with a dead body, or an animal

Looking at, sharing, showing or making pornography like this could mean going to prison for 3 years or more and being put on the sex offenders register.



If you are worried about something you have seen, or someone else looked at:

- Tell a carer, a person you trust, or the police.

Do not watch anything you are not sure about.



If you would like support to access or use pornography, please speak to your care team.

This leaflet has been produced by
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SOTSEC-ID. September 2017.

If you have any questions or would like more information please email
SOTSEC-ID at sotsec@kent.ac.uk or go to the SOTSEC-ID website -
<https://www.kent.ac.uk/tizard/sotsec/>.

You will also find booklets about the Criminal Justice System to help you understand *Going to Court, Being on Probation, Going to Prison, Liaison & Diversion Services* and *Youth Probation and Offending Services* -
<https://www.kent.ac.uk/tizard/sotsec/CJSexplained.html>.