

Cell phone safety

Cell phones are great for messaging and calling friends, keeping up to date on social media, listening to music, and capturing some of life's greatest moments in pictures or video.

But, along with these benefits there are a number of serious risks.

Here are some tips to stay safe.

Safety tip	Why?
Set a password for your phone	Password protecting your phone will help protect you and the information on your phone if it is ever lost or stolen.
Learn how to block calls/texts from unknown or unwanted people	Blocking numbers creates an extra barrier, which will help to protect you from receiving unwanted contact.
Make sure you report texts that make you feel uneasy or that are harassing or threatening in any way	It is important to report inappropriate or harassing messages in order to protect yourself or others from future harm.
Think before you press SEND	Once a message has been sent, you cannot get it back. It may be smart to take some time to think about what you want to say before sending mean or hurtful messages that you won't be able to take back.
Never send naked pictures of yourself, or anyone else!	Once these images are sent, they are out there forever. You can never be sure who else they have been sent to.
Never send naked pictures of anyone that is under 18	Sending pictures of someone who is under 18 can be classified as child pornography and may put you at risk of being formally charged.
Take a break from your cell phone	Show your respect for others by not using your cell phone at certain times (like at dinner, movies, in class, etc.). It shows those around you that you respect them. This will also give you some time for yourself and will keep you in control of the technology instead of letting technology control you.

(Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., Texted.ca; Toronto Police Services, Texting Safety Tips from WebAware, http://www.bewebaware.ca/english/cell-phones-_texting.html)



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