

ThinkUKnow e-Newsletter - February 2016

Welcome back to another school year! 2016 is already proving to be an exciting year for ThinkUKnow with our presentations undergoing a major re-design and content refresh, and our youth sessions extended to include grades three and four. For more information on booking a parent, carer, teacher presentation, please visit our [booking page](#). We may only be a few weeks into the school year but already we've experienced the misuse of technology in the form of hoax bomb threats and filmed fights. In the first issue of the ThinkUKnow e-newsletter for 2016, we're going to explore the challenges of filmed fights and provide some advice to deter young people from involvement in these incidents.

Why is filming a fight problematic?

Filming something is not always a passive activity as the presence of a camera can change how a situation unfolds. For example, find a friend or a colleague to use as a test subject. Look closely at their facial expression, then pull out your phone and tell them you are about to take a photo of them. As you point the camera on your phone at your test subject, look again at their facial expression and see how it differs from what they looked like before you tried to film them. When we know, or suspect, that someone is watching us, we act differently. We may try to hide what we are doing, or even perform to the camera. Even documentary filmmakers who try and record animals in the wild must take great care in hiding cameras so that they can truly observe these animals performing their normal activities and not trying to make sense of the strange, shiny object in their face.

When a fight is being filmed, the people engaged in the altercation might perform for the camera by acting more violently or aggressive. This might make for entertaining viewing, but for the victim, it can result in serious and long-lasting damage. Filming a fight, even one that might initially be a staged fight, can incite participants to exaggerate their actions to look good on camera and can end in serious injury, even death.

Is it a crime to film a fight?

In many jurisdictions, the filming of a fight in a public space may not be a criminal offence. However, if the fight is filmed on private property, the owner has the right to restrict filming or photographing on their premises. What is done with the filmed fight, however, may fall under other criminal and civil laws. For example, if a filmed fight is posted online as a form of harassment, it may fall under stalking legislation or Commonwealth law relating to the use of a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence.

The filming of the fight may not be criminal, but the fight itself is likely to constitute an assault which is a criminal offence. The footage of the fight captured on a phone may be used as evidence of the assault and the phone may be seized for the case to go before the courts (which may take more than twelve months). Viewing the footage on a phone may also reveal witnesses filming the fight and their devices might be seized as well.

Time2Talk

In this section we look at ways to start talking with children and young people about their use of technology.

Have you ever seen a filmed fight online or on someone's phone?

Why do you think people film fights?

How would you feel if someone filmed a fight where you were being attacked?

How do you think we can stop people from posting filmed fights online?

Keep in mind that many social media sites do not allow filmed fights on their services as part of their terms and conditions. If a person is found to be sharing this footage through their account, the site may block you for a period of time or even cancel your account.

There are already lots of filmed fights online, what's so bad about posting one more?

Unfortunately, not everyone is careful about what they say and do online so you may be able to see a lot of fight videos online. Sharing these videos might encourage others to create their own fight video or cause ongoing harm and embarrassment to the people subjected to violence in the video. Sharing these videos might also give the creators the attention they are after and reward them for their anti-social behaviour. Some news outlets may even broadcast these fights on television, providing broader coverage.

Each of us can play a vital role in setting the standards we want to see online, particularly regarding filmed fights. Remind your children that if someone shares a link to one of these videos, not to watch it or share it with others, and politely tell the person who shared it with you that they don't want to see those kinds of things. Also, if someone tells them there's a fight or they are witnessing one, they should inform someone in authority or use their phone to call for help.

New resources for 2016

We've got a number of new fact sheets on our ThinkUKnow website, including information on Minecraft, Tinder, YouTube and Twitter. We've also added new videos to our [YouTube channel](#), including advice from our friends at the Carly Ryan Foundation and Microsoft.

If you need more information on a particular issue, or want to provide us with feedback, please feel free to [contact us](#).