

Explicit photos and apps – misuse of technology lead to charges

Eight boys, aged 14 to 16, appeared in youth court today to face charges, after a teacher caught a boy with nude photos of a female classmate on his cellphone, allegedly taken with a smart-phone app.

The girls in the photos sent the images to the boys, using an app in which images are supposed to disappear after a predetermined amount of time. It is alleged that the boys took screenshots of the photos, retaining them on their cellphones, and then started sharing the images through text message.

Police have stated that the boys were trading photos – presumably of their girlfriends – among themselves on their smartphones. There is no indication at this time that the photos in question have been uploaded to the web.

The school has confirmed that a male student was showing other boys sexually explicit photographs of a girl, that the distribution of the images was among peers, and that it was happening both on and off school property.

In an interview, the Principal went further to say "It was

going on for some time. The boys were regularly asking these girls for nudes – generally in the context of a dating relationship."

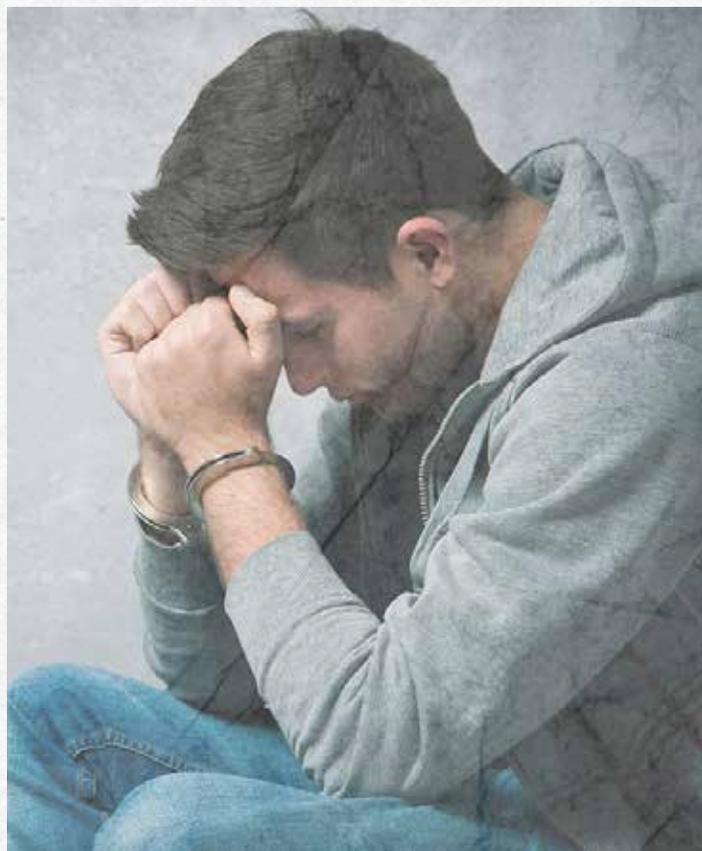
She continued in saying that the school and the school board held meetings to deal with the current situation and that incidents like these are taken very seriously.

An officer that was part of the investigation noted that "Even if incidents occur off school premises, they have an impact on the school environment. These images resurface at the schools and the reach, while small in this case, could be much greater."

He called on parents to be vigilant, to talk with their kids, and to establish an environment where your child can come to you – even in the event that something has gone wrong and poor judgement is involved.

As for the case before the courts, after a brief court appearance, the boys were released into the custody of their parents and are due back in court at an undisclosed date.

The boys were released on the following conditions: to



keep the peace, to maintain orderly conduct and to refrain from any contact with the alleged victims

go beyond the intended recipient. When the allegations of photo sharing came to light, many of the

“ the trust they thought they had with the boys, well, it diminished quickly ”

unless they cross their paths at school. The court also ordered restrictions on computer use.

"The girls involved in this case never expected that their photos would

girls were upset. They were embarrassed and the trust they thought they had with the boys, well, it diminished quickly" an officer in the case said.