

NEWTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

3 Main Street
Newtown, CT 06470
Phone (203) 426-5841
Fax (203) 270-0637

See ✓

Press Release

Contact: Officer Liam Seabrook
Phone: (203) 426-5841

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 25, 2016

CASE #: 2015-10671

In May 2015, Newtown Police Department High School Resource Officer Liam Seabrook began an investigation into the alleged circulation of sexually explicit images and videos between juvenile students at the Newtown High School. During the investigation, it was discovered that numerous juvenile students (both male and female) created sexually explicit images and videos of themselves, which originally occurred outside of school but was brought to the attention of school administrators. These images were then transmitted to other juvenile High School students using mobile device applications such as Snapchat, Facetime, iMessage, KiK, and various other text messaging applications. These images and videos were saved and subsequently circulated to other third party juvenile students, other than the original intended recipient. This transmission of sexually explicit images and/or videos is commonly referred to as "sexting."

OFFICER:

[Signature]
71095

DATE:

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SUPERVISOR:

[Signature]

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During the approximate six month investigation, the Newtown Police, in conjunction with the Newtown Board of Education, conducted numerous interviews with students and their parents. Newtown Police took several sworn written statements in regards to student involvement, seized numerous cell phones, and executed several Search and Seizure Warrants. This investigation involved over 50 Newtown High School Students, which included witnesses and students later determined to be uninvolved.

Furthermore, during the investigation into the circulation of these sexually explicit images and videos, the Newtown Police discovered that a number of students were selling these images and videos for a monetary profit. The conclusion of this investigation resulted in the arrest of (3) Juvenile High School students and the referral of (20) Juvenile High School students to a community-based Juvenile Review Board (JRB).

A JRB is a community-based diversionary program designed for community leaders to take a tempered response to what would be considered criminal actions committed by a juvenile-aged offender. This tempered response imposes a consequence on the juvenile-aged offender, yet keeps the juvenile offender out of the State of Connecticut Criminal Justice System. In order for the Juvenile Review Board to be successfully administered, the juvenile offender meets with a board of selected community leaders. The juvenile then must allocate (give an admission of guilt) to the criminal behavior. The JRB would then impose a community-based consequence, typically some sort of community service, in response to the criminal actions committed by the juvenile. Once the juvenile complies with all of the JRB's disciplinary consequences the case is considered closed and the juvenile maintains no State criminal record. Failure of the juvenile to comply with ALL aspects of the Juvenile Review Board's consequence results in the juvenile being formally arrested and charged in the State of Connecticut Juvenile Justice System.

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