



<https://www.snapchat.com/>

What is it?

They began in 2011 and now claim 293 million users. Their motto is “The fastest way to share a moment” (Snapchat, 2022). People share daily events via pictures that rapidly disappear after being posted.

Why can it be dangerous?

Thompson (2022) warns parents about some hidden dangers within Snapchat. He speaks to the significant amount of cyberbullying occurring within the app after kids post pictures that are not flattering or otherwise considered by some to be bully-worthy. One issue is that photos that are supposedly instantly destroyed can be gathered by anyone with access to the image and used for nefarious purposes the student did not intend.

Kim (2021) researched a high school student’s case in Pennsylvania where a fourteen-year-old ranted against her school using inappropriate language while off-campus. When the school heard of this case, she was disciplined for her out-of-school actions. Later that year, Liptak (2021) wrote about the Supreme Court’s decision in this case. The decision was eight to one in favor of the student’s First Amendment rights.

Regardless of this outcome, Snapchat, among many social media apps, pose potential life-altering concerns. While the student won her case, it took years of her life and untold financial and social cost simply because she chose to use Snapchat without considering the potential problems.

Thomson (2022) ends his piece with one of the most terrifying elements for parents and children, sexting inappropriate pictures intercepted by hackers. These images are now in the hands of nefarious people who can do with them as they want because the child posted them in a public forum. The law is vague, at best, with how much someone can assume an expectation of privacy when posting data online. Thomson warns parents that their children's pictures may end up in adult porn sites and pedophiles' image banks.

Defenses

Thomson (2022) suggests that no child under the age of thirteen should be allowed to use social media applications. He also recommends that parents use the child-friendly settings that Snapchat offers for free. Snapchat (2022) harmonizes with this opinion, and they have it as part of their contract that must be agreed to by the customer.