

Pornography – Is it legal, is it right? Quiz & Discussion

Is it legal? True or False?

1. It is legal to look at pornography if I am over 16 years old. **True, there is no legal age limit to view pornography. However if the person is accompanied by under 18's, or the images are of under 18's or include scenes of torture, rape and sexual assault, sex with animals, violent scenes which are threatening or show serious harm it would be an offence.**
2. The legal age to buy porn magazines or videos is 18. **True, 18 is the legal age to buy pornographic magazines and films.**
3. It is legal to watch porn with someone under 18. **False – it is an offence. This is to protect children.**
4. Young people under 18 who film or take sexual pictures of each other can be charged with child pornography offences, even if they both agreed to it. **True – the taking of a sexual image of a child is an offence and the person taking the picture/film could be charged with child porn offences.**
5. In the UK, it is illegal to view pornography that features people under 18, sex with animals, torture, scenes of rape or sexual assault or violent scenes which are life threatening or likely to cause serious harm. **True – all of the above are considered illegal when viewed.**
6. The person making a sex tape, not the person appearing in it, has copyright. **True – the person appearing in the photograph or video does not have copyright, copyright belongs to the person taking the image.**
7. Porn can be shown in the UK after 9pm so long as it does not show erect penises or close ups of genitals. **True – this is known as the “Watershed”**

Is it legal/right? – Discussion

- A 14 year old watching free porn on the internet – legal/right? **It is legal unless the young person is accompanied by other person(s) under 18, is viewing images of under 18's or of scenes of torture, rape and sexual assault, sex with animals or violent scenes which are threatening or show serious harm.**
- A 17 year old takes pictures of her breasts and sends them to her boyfriend – legal/right? **Not legal – could be charged with child pornography offences**
- Three 17 year olds chilling with a beer watching porn together – legal/right? **Not legal – all under 18 irrespective of consenting**
- Going on a porn site where it is not made clear that everyone is over 18 – legal/right? **Not legal – need to be clear all participants are over 18**
- A 15 year old showing a porn image to a classmate suggesting they do what's in the picture – legal/right? **Not legal**
- Watching a glamour model's sex tape on the internet that her ex-boyfriend sold to a porn website: she has tried to take it down but can't – legal/right? **Legal – she does not have copyright of the images**