

1 IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ADAMS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

2 Administrative Order

3 Number 9 of 2015

4 In Re: Sexting Diversionary Program

5 **ORDER OF COURT**

6 AND NOW, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015, the Court recognizes the Adams County  
7 Diversionary Program for Sexting, provided for by TrueNorth Wellness Services, as a dispositional  
8 alternative as authorized by 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 6321(f). The parameters of this program shall be governed  
9 by the program description attached hereto and incorporated herein as "Attachment A." Diversion into  
10 the program may only be authorized by a magisterial district judge or other judicial authority with  
11 jurisdiction over the violation.

12 BY THE COURT,

13  
14 MICHAEL A. GEORGE

15 President Judge

16  
17 df

18 Board of Judges

19 Magisterial District Judges

20 Court Administration

21 District Attorney

22 Public Defender

23 Adams County Bar Association

24 Executive Director, Adams County Department of Probation Services

25 TrueNorth Wellness Services, 5351C Jaycee Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17112



## Proposal for Adams County Diversionary Program for Sexting

In an effort to ensure that youth of Adams County are equipped to make choices that lead to overall wellness, TrueNorth Wellness Services would like to propose a program for youth on the topic of sexting, under Pennsylvania Statute Title 18, Subchapter 6321(a) "Transmission of Sexually Explicit Images by Minors". The program would entail:

- Two individual sessions with the youth, including the following topics:
  1. The legal consequences of sharing sexually explicit images
  2. The social impact of sharing sexually explicit images
  3. The risks and long-term considerations associated with content shared via electronic and social media
  4. Education about healthy social interactions and relationships
- The sessions would be billed at the agency's standard self-pay rate (currently \$110 for a 45-60 minute session). Thus the total current cost for the two required sessions would be \$220.
- Formal verification of successful program completion will be sent directly to the office of the Magisterial District Justice, and is contingent upon participation and payment of the sessions' charges.
- Referrals to additional behavioral health services, as appropriate, and the ability to continue seeing a therapist for counseling upon completion of the diversionary program.

TrueNorth Wellness Services believes that it is important to not only educate youth about the consequences of poor choices, but to provide information and guidance in helping them to make more positive choices in the future. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with the Adams County court system to help the youth in our community. To further develop this partnership, please contact me at the information below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elspeth Williams, Esq. M.".

**Elspeth Williams**  
Director of Children's Services  
**TrueNorth Wellness Services**  
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Harrisburg, PA 17112  
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With locations serving Central Pennsylvania.

### Overview of Content

- I. Educational content for this program will be pulled primarily from online resources. Using public resources that are freely available serves two purposes: it allows for more content to be covered during sessions, with more in-depth information available to the individual to review outside of sessions; and it connects individuals with resources that will continue to be available to aid them in making positive choices after sessions have concluded.
- II. Education about legal consequences will be based on Pennsylvania Statute Title 18, Subchapter 6321 “Transmission of Sexually Explicit Images by Minors”. It will include an explanation of the law and corresponding definitions.
- III. Education about the social and emotional impact of sexting will be based on informational modules found on [www.beforeyoutext.com](http://www.beforeyoutext.com), specifically the following:
  - Module 4: *Consequences of Sexting – Social*
  - Module 5: *Consequences of Sexting – Emotional*
- IV. Additional information about the social and emotional impact of sexting, including some problem-solving scenarios and case studies, may be pulled from *Respect Me, Don't Sext Me: Sexting Education Pack* (available online at <http://www.secasa.com.au/pages/respect-me-dont-sext-me>)
- V. Education about risks and long-term considerations will use content from [www.beforeyoutext.com](http://www.beforeyoutext.com), specifically:
  - Module 2: *Limits of Control Over Electronic Communication & General Consequences of Sexting*
  - Module 6: *Consequences of Sexting – Educational & Career*
- VI. Education about Healthy Relationships will be based on information from the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, found at <http://www.pamf.org/teen/abc/> titled “ABCs of a Healthy Relationship”.
- VII. As updated resource material becomes available, it may be incorporated into sessions or used to replace the content listed above.

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## TrueNorth Wellness Services

### Sexting Diversionary Program Participant Information Sheet

#### About the program:

This program was developed to educate adolescents about sexting. It is available to individuals who have been offered this option by the court system. The program will be provided to adolescents on an individual basis and will consist of two separate one-hour sessions that cover:

- The law related to sexting
- Social and emotional consequences of sexting
- Risks and long-term considerations associated with sexting
- Healthy relationships

Educational material is pulled from a variety of sources, including online resources that can be used to find additional information and guidance after the sessions have been completed. When appropriate, referrals will be made to behavioral health services, and participants will have the option to continue counseling upon completion of the program.

#### Cost:

The total cost is \$220, and may be paid either entirely at the first session, or \$110 at each session. *(Please note that there will be a charge of \$110 per missed appointment, cancellation with less than 24 hours notice, and arrival more than 15 minutes after the scheduled appointment time.)* Payment of all costs for the session is required before TrueNorth Wellness Services will send verification to the District Magistrate that the program has been completed successfully.

#### Requirements:

1. Referral by the District Magistrate
2. Active participation in two separate one-hour sessions
3. Completion of any and all assignments that may be given between sessions
4. Consent to inform the District Magistrate Office when the program is successfully completed.

#### To Enroll:

Contact the Intake Department of TrueNorth Wellness Services at 1-866-325-0339 to schedule your first session. Ask to be scheduled for an appointment for the Sexting Diversionary Program.

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