

Image-Based Sexual Abuse

Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) is the improper use of, or threat to improperly use, someone's sexually explicit or intimate images or videos. It includes:

- **Distributing or sharing** someone's nude or sexual images/videos without their consent (often called "revenge porn").
- **Photographing or recording** someone in a state of undress or sexual situation without their knowledge or consent (e.g. hidden cameras, voyeurism).
- **Threatening to share** someone's intimate images or videos to harass, blackmail, or control them.
- **Sharing fake or artificially-generated** explicit images or videos of someone without their consent.



If you discover that your private images or videos, or private images or videos generated of you, have been posted or sent around without your permission, take action quickly.

1. **Document the evidence.** Collect proof by taking screenshots of the content. Try to capture the URL, any messages or usernames involved, and the date/time.
2. **Request removal online.** After collecting evidence, immediately report the content directly on the platform or website where it was posted. Most major social media sites and websites ban non-consensual intimate images and have reporting tools to remove them. You can also report the images or videos as a copyright violation, which often results in faster removal. Federal law requires online platforms to remove non-consensual explicit images within 48 hours of being notified, and to make "reasonable efforts" to remove any copies.

If you need advice or assistance, consider contacting the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative via cybercivilrights.org or their 24/7 Image Abuse Helpline at (844) 878-2274 and/or StopNCII.org, a free online service that helps victims get nude/sexual images taken down and prevents reuploads using digital fingerprinting.

3. **Seek support and guidance.** You do not have to handle this alone. Reach out to someone you trust for emotional support: a friend, family member, or counselor. Consider using professional resources such as the University Counseling Center (574) 631-7336 or the Family Justice Center of St. Joseph County (574) 234-6900. For a full list of support services visit equity.nd.edu/resources.

REPORT TO THE POLICE AND/OR THE UNIVERSITY

The non-consensual distribution of intimate images is a Class A misdemeanor under Indiana law. Federal law similarly criminalizes the publishing or sharing of someone's intimate images without consent, including AI-generated sexual deepfakes.

University policy also prohibits all forms of ISBA. Students, staff, or faculty who engage in such conduct may face disciplinary action up to and including expulsion or termination.

Report an incident of ISBA to the Notre Dame Police Department in person or by calling (574) 631-5555. Note that police reports will be shared with the Office of Institutional Equity who will reach out to you with resource and support options.

You may also report directly to OIE at speakup.nd.edu.