

INTIMATE IMAGE ABUSE YOUTH LAW CENTRE ACT



Legal help for young people

Legal Aid ACT's Youth Law Centre can help you if you have questions about intimate images and consent laws in the ACT or if you have been charged with a sexual offence. We can also help you if you are the victim of a sex crime. We can help you by:

- giving you information and legal advice about intimate image abuse laws in the ACT.
- helping you if someone has intimate images of you.
- representing you in court if you have been charged with a sexual crime.
- referrals to non-legal support services such as counselling or government services.

Our Youth Law Centre is a free and confidential legal service for young people aged 12 to 25 years in the ACT. See the back of the factsheet for our contact details.

Is it illegal to share intimate images of someone without their consent or threaten to distribute intimate images of someone without their consent?

In the ACT, it is a crime to send, supply or make available intimate images or video of someone without that person's consent. This includes showing the images or footage to others, posting the images or footage online or sending the images or footage to another person electronically. An 'intimate image or footage' includes:

- Images of someone's private parts;
- Images of a person undressing, using the toilet, shower or bathroom;
- Images of someone engaging in sexual activity or something similar;
- An image that has been altered to show any of the above, such as through photoshop or deep fakes.



I sent an intimate image to someone. Is it legal for them to show my image to other people?

Even if you sent the image or footage to the first person because you wanted that person to have the image of you, that person is still not allowed to show or share that image to others without your permission. This law applies to both young people and adults.

Even where an adult sends an intimate image to another adult, that does not mean they consent to the recipient showing that image to other people. Any person (including young people) who shares an intimate image without your consent may be charged with an offence and face maximum penalties of up to 3 years imprisonment, \$48,000 in fines or both.

Someone has shared intimate images of me or is threatening to share intimate images of me without my consent - what can I do?

If someone has distributed intimate images of you without your consent, or they are threatening to do this, that person is committing a crime. It is important to remember that they have committed the offence, not you. You should not feel scared to get help if this has happened to you.

You can get free help from a number of places including ACT police (especially their Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Team), The Victims of Crime Commission, Legal Aid ACT's Youth Law Centre, Legal Aid ACT's Family Violence and Personal Protection Unit, Domestic Violence Crisis Service and Kids Helpline. These services are explained further on the back of this fact-sheet.

If you do not know what to do, a good place to start is calling the Youth Law Centre for a free and confidential appointment. The Youth Law Centre can explain your options to you. Contact details for the Youth Law Centre are on the back of this factsheet.

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Getting help - reporting to the police

Sharing intimate images or footage of someone without their consent or threatening to do this is a very serious crime. If this is happening to you or has happened to you, you can report this crime to the police. In the ACT, there is a special unit within ACT Policing called the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Team ('SACAT'). SACAT is specially trained to deal with sexual offences and they can take your statement and investigate the situation.

Call **131 444** and ask to be put through to SACAT.

Reporting to police is a decision for you to make. If you do not know whether or not you want to report to the police, you may wish to speak to a support service first. See below for a range of non-legal support services that you can contact for help.

The Youth Law Centre can give you free and confidential advice about what to expect when reporting intimate image abuse to the police. The Youth Law Centre can also link you in with free services to support you in reporting to the police.

Getting help - support services

There are a number of professional services that can support you for free.

Kids helpline

Free telephone counselling for young people aged 5-25 years.

Phone: 1800 55 1800

Email: counsellor@kidshelpline.com.au

Domestic Violence Crisis Service 24 hour phone counselling and support

- If the person doing this to you is a current or former romantic partner, you can contact this service for 24 hr support.

Phone:(02) 6280 0900

Victims Support:

Phone: 1800 8222 72

<https://www.victimsupport.act.gov.au/>

Getting help - protection orders

You may also wish to contact Legal Aid ACT's Family Violence and Personal Protection Unit. This Unit can give you free and confidential legal advice on whether or not you have grounds for a Protection Order against the person who has shared the images or threatened to share the images.

Protection Orders (often referred to as restraining orders) can ban behavior by another person that makes you feel intimidated, harassed or unsafe. They might include provisions that require the person who is engaging in the behavior to stay away from you, not contact you and not to attend you home or work place and not to do anything that causes you makes harassed or intimidated. Legal Aid ACT can provide you with confidential and free advice about Protection Orders.

Getting help - Free legal services

For free and confidential Legal help you can contact **Legal Aid ACT's Youth Law Centre:**

Phone: (02) 6173 5410

Email: contact@youthlawact.org.au.

Legal Aid ACT College Legal Liaison Officers

If your school or college has a Legal Liaison Officer, you can also request a free and confidential appointment with them at their school office or by phone. Email college@legalaidact.org.au to request an appointment or drop in to their college office.

Legal Aid ACT's Family Violence and Personal Protection Unit

is located at the Magistrates Court on weekdays between 9am and 1pm or call our Helpline on 1300 654 314.

Magistrates & Children's Court duty lawyer

A lawyer is on duty at the Magistrates and Children's Court to advise and assist people in criminal matters where they have been charged with an offence. You can speak to this lawyer for free.

Phone: 1300 654 314