



What is Image Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA)?

The creation, theft, extortion, threatened or actual distribution, or any use of sexually explicit materials without the consent of the person depicted.

Examples

SEXTORTION

Using sexual images to blackmail or pressure someone to produce more sexual images or content

REVENGE PORN

Distributing sexual images, often as an act of revenge to punish someone

VOYEURISM

Recording intimate images of an unsuspecting person, like “down blousing,” “upskirting,” or recordings in bathrooms and locker rooms

DEEPFAKES

Using a person’s likeness to create digitally altered pornography or sexual images intended to portray the person

NON-CONSENSUAL PHOTO SHARING

Collecting, swapping, and posting of sexual images of a person pictured without their consent in settings such as group chats or social media platforms

Is IBSA against MN law or U of MN policy?

Yes. It’s illegal to share sexual images without consent.

- MN law states it is a crime to intentionally share an image or video of someone depicted in a sexual act or whose intimate parts are exposed ([MN Statute 617.261](#)).
- MN law also prohibits distribution of deep fake sexual images and videos ([MN Statute 617.262](#)).
- UMN policy prohibits sexual exploitation, which it defines as “taking sexual advantage of a person” and includes distribution of sexual images. More details about this policy can be found [online](#).

What can I do to prevent IBSA?

There isn’t a one-size-fits-all approach to preventing IBSA, but below are some tips and resources:

- If your photos are automatically uploaded to an online cloud service, check to make sure those accounts are secure with a unique password that only you know.
- Review the privacy settings of your social media accounts. You’re in control of who sees what you share; remove or unfriend anyone you do not want following your account.
- [StopNCII.org](#) created a free tool that generates a digital fingerprint for your intimate images (without requiring file uploads) so you’re able to track and report any duplicates. Visit their site to learn more about the tool operated by the Revenge Porn Helpline.

CONNECT WITH A CONFIDENTIAL ADVOCATE:



24 Hour Helpline
612-626-9111



Text our message line
612-626-9111 (regular business hours)



Email us
aurora@umn.edu



What can I do if I experience IBSA?

KEEP CALM

Don't give the offender anymore sexual images and block all communication. Organizations like [The Aurora Center](#) and the [Cyber Civil Rights Initiative](#) specialize in helping victims of IBSA.

DOCUMENT

Take screenshots and collect URL links of the content shared online. For a step-by-step guide on how to preserve evidence, visit the [Cyber Civil Rights Initiative](#).

REPORT IT

It is against the law to share sexual images without consent. Report any accounts the offender may have used to share the content and/or contact you. If the offender is a U of MN student, faculty, or staff member, you can report to the Equal Opportunity & Title IX (EOT) Office.

GET FREE LEGAL ADVICE

Visit the [National Center on Sexual Exploitation Law Center](#) to see if you qualify for a lawsuit, and/or submit an [Intake Questionnaire](#) for free legal consultation. For students at the U of MN, contact [Student Legal Services](#) for free legal consultation.

If you want to criminally/civilly prosecute the offender, do not complete the following:

REQUEST IMAGE REMOVAL

You own the copyright to images you took yourself. You can take the extra step to register your images with the [U.S. Copyright Office](#). Even if someone else took the images, you can still ask a website to remove a sexual image if you did not consent to its distribution. For a step-by-step guide on how to do this, visit the [Cyber Civil Rights Initiative](#).

NOTIFY SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Click [here](#) to report to a variety of social media platforms and/or read their sexual exploitation policies.

What resources are available?

Minnesota:

- [The Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education](#) serves UMN Twin Cities, and Augsburg University students and affiliates.

National:

- [Cyber Civil Rights Initiative](#) is the largest advocacy organization for IBSA in the US, able to help with legal advice, emotional support, and crisis calls.
- [National Center on Sexual Exploitation Law](#) defends human dignity against sex trafficking and other forms of sexual violence.

International:

- [Revenge Porn Helpline](#) offers support for victims in the United Kingdom, however much of their information is applicable worldwide.