

Tips to keep yourself safer when sharing intimate images.

- **Keep your face hidden** – crop, cover or blur your face from the image.
- **Don't** include easily **identifiable body marks** such as tattoos, birthmarks, or moles.
- **Use a neutral background** – use a background that you don't usually use in public photos, or that could be easily identified as your space (e.g. instead of your bedroom with all your posters or clothing in it, use a blank wall).
- Use **temporary communication platforms** that delete images shortly after they have been received (e.g., Snapchat) – **this is not 100% effective** as people can screenshot these images before they are deleted.

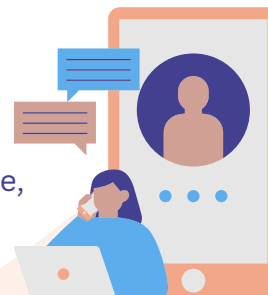
It's important to remember that you cannot control what happens with an image of yourself once you have shared it.

For others' safety, remember that someone else is allowed to say no if they do not feel comfortable sharing or receiving intimate images.

For your safety, you can choose to report someone who repeatedly asks you for intimate images after you've said no.

What can I do if someone shares my intimate image?

- If you know the person, ask them to stop sharing the image.
- You can stop all contact with the person.
- Talk to a trusted adult - parents/guardians, teacher, etc.
- Save evidence - See this website for the rule around collecting evidence: **esafety.gov.au/report/how-to-collect-evidence**
- Use Take it Down or report it to the eSafety Commissioner – This is the best course of action when the image has been posted on an online platform including social media and pornography websites: **TakeltDown.ncmec.org**
- Contact the Youth Law Centre at Legal Aid ACT.
- Contact police.
- For more information about options available, visit **esafety.gov.au**



SHARING INTIMATE IMAGES

What you need to know

This resource is designed to help young people to make informed and safer decisions when consenting to send and/or receive intimate images with another young person.



What counts as an intimate image?

The legal definition of an intimate image is very broad. It includes any photo, gif or video of a person's genitals, anal region or breasts. These areas can be covered or bare. These images can be real, photoshopped/altered, or drawn.

The image can depict a person in a sexual manner or show a person engaged in a state of undress, showering, bathing or using the toilet. This also includes images that show the person without religious or cultural clothing such as hijabs or turbans.

Sharing intimate images is common among young people.

Mutually consensual sexual interactions online can be a normal and important part of relationships.

Sharing intimate images online can also be a way for young people to experiment with their sexuality in a safer way. They may not feel ready to physically engage in sexual activities, but can still explore their sexuality.

What is image based abuse?

When intimate images are taken, shared or posted without the person's consent, that is image based abuse.

Consent is specific to one particular situation and cannot be assumed to apply to further situations.

Image based abuse is never the fault of the victim. The responsibility always lies with the person who illegally shared the image.

What are the laws in the ACT?

The age of consent for sending intimate images, **under ACT law, is 16 years old.** The law does allow for people under the age of 16 to consent when they are no more than 2 years younger than their partner.



What are ways I can clarify consent?

It is important to be clear about what is being consented to.

When you receive an intimate image, you should clarify what you are allowed to do with it.

“Am I allowed to keep this on my phone?”

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When sending intimate images, you can be explicit about what you are consenting to.

“I only want you to see this and please delete it once you’ve seen it.”

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Rather than asking someone to send you intimate images of themselves, ask them if they would like to receive intimate images from you.

“Do you want me to send you nudes?”

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When a relationship ends, you should delete the intimate images of your ex-partner.

“Just letting you know I’ve deleted all of the nudes you sent me while we were together.”

•

Remember that you are allowed to say no to sending or receiving intimate images.

“I don’t feel comfortable sending you those types of pictures.”