

## **Practical options open to general members of the public who have been the victim of revenge porn/sexortion to manage future access to the images**

Consideration should first be given to preservation of evidential data before seeking removal of any content.

### **Removing links to explicit content from Google and Bing Search Engine results**

Google and Microsoft have released online web forms to allow victims to request that links to websites containing sexually explicit image/video of themselves be omitted from Google and Bing search results. This includes Xbox and OneDrive services.

These forms can be used by victims of revenge porn and sextortion offences to mitigate the impact of a sextortion/revenge porn attack by making the information harder to obtain through the conventional Google and Bing search engines. It is important to note that although this may make content significantly harder to find it will not remove the actual content which is held on third party websites.

Both online forms are easy to complete and should be completed by the data subject e.g. the victim and do not require any police or CDU SPOC action (although in the case of Microsoft if the victim can attach a police report/restraining order/court order/solicitors letter this will expedite the process). I have included the direct links below and screen shots attached.

#### **Microsoft- Bing, OneDrive & Xbox :**

Direct link to revenge porn reporting page: [https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/getsupport?oaspworkflow=start\\_1.0.0.0&wfname=capsub&productkey=RevengePorn](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/getsupport?oaspworkflow=start_1.0.0.0&wfname=capsub&productkey=RevengePorn)

What is needed to complete the report:

Form should be completed by the data subject, i.e. the subject of the explicit photo or video.

- Victim's name, country of residence and email address.
- URL (the website address) of the content that should be omitted from search results.
- Confirmation that the victim did not consent to the content being shared.
- Details of any personal information that is included with the explicit content, e.g. links to social media, name, telephone.
- Does the content appear in search results when you search for the victim by name
- Any supporting police/court/advocate/restraining order paperwork

#### **Google:**

Direct link to revenge porn reporting page:

<https://support.google.com/websearch/troubleshooter/3111061#ts=2889054%2C2889099>

What is needed to complete the report:

Form should be completed by the data subject, i.e. the subject of the explicit photo or video or parent/representative

- Victim's name
- Country of residence
- Contact email

- URL(s) of the offending content
- Screenshots of the offending content

### **Social Networking Sites (SNS) :**

#### **Pornhub**

Pornhub is a platform for streaming of pornographic video content to users. It fits the description of a Social Networking Site because it allows users to upload their own content as well as view content in a similar fashion to YouTube. Internet analysts have identified that Pornhub is increasingly used in the distribution of revenge porn, and victims and law enforcement will need to act quickly to remove any improper content, as new content is quickly downloaded and replicated on other third party websites causing the content to spread rapidly and become harder to remove.

Pornhub do not have a written policy in place regarding revenge porn, but they do have a support page gives an option to request the removal of content in a drop down menu.

The link is: <http://www.pornhub.com/support>

#### **TUMBLR**

Tumblr essentially hosts microblogs for its users. Tumblr users can fill their blogs with multimedia (like images and short video clips) The fast paced nature of Tumblr makes it ideal for the proliferation of viral content including revenge porn.

The form for reporting content is: <https://www.tumblr.com/abuse/privacy>

#### **Twitter**

Twitter allows users to post short messages consisting of 140 characters or less which may include a hyperlink to third party content or image. Messages posted on Twitter are referred to as tweets and are by default visible to the entire online community, not just twitter users or approved friends. The capability to publish content to such a wide audience, as well offering a quick and discreet account creation process which offers little in the way of non-repudiation makes it an attractive platform for those wanting to publish malicious material about an individual.

Twitter has a published written policy banning revenge porn which states: "You may not post intimate photos or videos that were taken or distributed without the subject's consent." It has a form for requesting the reporting the exposure of private information which includes explicit photos. Note that you do not need a twitter account to report abuse.

The form is available here: [https://support.twitter.com/forms/private\\_information](https://support.twitter.com/forms/private_information)

#### **Facebook:**

Perhaps the brand most synonymous with Social Networking Facebook hosts a platform for users to share a personal profile consisting of photos, videos and news with other Facebook users. The ever increasing pervasiveness of Facebook has lead to some users having their entire friend, business and family networks represented online. Increased integration of Facebook into mobile devices means that users are instantly notified of updates to friends pages. This instant and widespread communication of content to the user's entire real life, social network makes Facebook a particularly devastating platform from which to launch a Revenge Porn/Sextortion attack.

The mechanism for reporting explicit content depends on whether the victim has access to the content and whether the content has been posted on their page or on a different users page.

**If you can see the content that is being displayed:**

To report a picture/video which has been posted on the victim's own page,

- Click on the photo/video to expand it
- Click options in the bottom right
- Click report photo/report video

To report a content on somebody's else page

- Go to the page you want to report
- Click ". . ." on the page's cover photo.
- Select Report Page and follow the on-screen instructions. NOTE: Facebook may warn or disable the account of the person responsible.

Reporting a profile

- Go to the profile you want to report.
- In the bottom right of the cover photo, click . . . and select Report, F
- Follow the on-screen instructions.

**If you can't see the content which has been posted**, because you have been blocked or do not permissions to view the page complete the below online form:

<https://www.facebook.com/help/contact/274459462613911>

**If you are using a mobile device** a different process needs to be followed, the link to this is <https://www.facebook.com/help/1432374603715654/list>

## Instagram

Instagram is primarily aimed at smartphone users looking for an convenient option to upload photos taken with their mobile device's camera to their social profiles. This enables content to be quickly uploaded to Twitter, Facebook as well as to the users own Instagram account.

Instagram have a broad policy which prohibits the posting of sexually explicit content which includes images which the user does not have permission to distribute. The wording of the policy is as follows:

"We have zero tolerance when it comes to sharing sexual content involving minors or threatening to post intimate images of others." This combined with its policy against nudity (i.e. "[w]e don't allow nudity on Instagram. This includes photos, videos, and some digitally-created content that show sexual intercourse, genitals, and close-ups of fully-nude buttocks. It also includes some photos of female nipples, but photos of post-mastectomy scarring and women actively breastfeeding are allowed.") and intellectual property ("Remember to post authentic content, and don't post anything you've copied or collected from the Internet that you don't have the right to post")

The link for reporting prohibited material is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/help/instagram/contact/584460464982589#> =

## YouTube

YouTube is a platform for users to upload and view streamed video content. Analysis of crime reports shows that it is commonly used by offenders in webcam blackmail to demonstrate the offender's ability to publish indecent content if demands are not met.

YouTube has an option which allows users to flag inappropriate content which contravenes their Community Guidelines. YouTube state on their website that they review flagged videos 24 hours a day, seven days a week and prohibited content will be removed. YouTube's Community guidelines are broad the following extracts are most applicable to sextortion/revenge blackmail:

*YouTube is not for pornography or sexually explicit content. If that describes your video, even if it is a video of yourself, don't post it on YouTube. **Also to be noted**, Things like predatory behaviour, stalking, threats harassment, intimidation, revealing other persons personal information and inciting others to commit violent acts or violate the terms of use are taken very seriously, anyone caught doing these things may be permanently banned from YouTube.*

Although flagging videos is anonymous (users cannot tell who flagged a video) a YouTube/Google account is required to use the flagging tool.

### How to flag a video

- Below the YouTube video player click the 'More' Button
- Highlight and click the 'Report' button in the drop down menu
- Click the reason for flagging that best fits the violation within the video
- Provide any additional details that may help the review team make their final decision

### How to Flag a Channel

- Visit the channel page you wish to report
- Click 'About'
- Click the Flag drop down button
- Select the option that best suits your issue