
Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI) IBSA Intake Guide

Image Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) refers to “the nonconsensual creation and/or distribution of private sexual images.” Direct service providers across all disciplines, including housing, education, mental health, immigration, and even arts-related services, are observing IBSA in their caseloads. For any direct service providers seeking guidance on how to respond to this new subject area, the intake questions and suggested answers below may be helpful.

Important Cautions

- ❖ This intake tool is intended for individuals who were age 18 or over when depicted in the intimate image.
- ❖ Please note that the following questions are best used as a supplement to your existing intake forms; they are not intended to serve as a standalone intake form.
- ❖ Similarly, the questions are a helpful guide for a basic and initial intake; they are not designed as an intensive case management tool. Additional resources are offered at the end of this document if needed.
- ❖ IBSA is solely the fault of the offender, and the victim-survivor is never to blame. For this reason, it is best to refrain from asking questions such as, “Why did you take/send that image in the first place?”
- ❖ Do not view, download, or click on links to intimate images unless this is in compliance with an image-handling policy adopted by your workplace.
- ❖ Please ensure that the victim-survivor understands that the intake questions are not legal advice, and that they should seek the guidance of an attorney if they wish to receive such advice.

3. Are you having thoughts about harming yourself? Yes No

If yes, please immediately follow your workplace's established procedure regarding suicide prevention. This might involve a statement such as,

I care about you and want you to be safe. Please reach out to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988.

4. Would you like to submit an image takedown request to a website? Yes No

If yes, you can say

- ❖ *First, though it is completely understandable to want to get the images deleted as soon as possible, it is actually very important to take screenshots and print out copies of the material. It is important to save all evidence, including information about disputes; email, text or chat messages; results from an online search of your name; photos and videos; friend requests or emails you received from any third party because of the posting; and even communications or content that you believe may be unfavorable to you. Be sure to capture all URLs and date/ time stamps. Please note that this process can be very distressing; if you have a person in your life that you trust completely, you can consider asking if they would undertake this process for you or with you.*
- ❖ *Offender accounts and content can sometimes be reported in-app. Otherwise, many tech company policies and procedures can be found in their terms and conditions, or at the CCRI Safety Center (<https://cybercivilrights.org/ccri-safety-center>).*
- ❖ *If you have access to the images, you can visit StopNCII.org, which can help detect and remove some images from several, though not all, websites.*

5. Are you interested in filing a police report about this? Yes No

If yes,

- ❖ *Helpful steps include bringing a) a copy of the state law, which can be found at the CCRI Safety Center (<https://cybercivilrights.org/existing-laws/>); b) copies of digital evidence; and c) a friend or advocate who can provide moral support, witness the conversation, and take notes.*

- ❖ *You can also ask to speak with a law enforcement officer who has expertise in sexual violence or online abuse. This may be possible in some jurisdictions.*
- ❖ *Please be advised that law enforcement sensitivity to and expertise in IBSA varies greatly across jurisdictions and departments. If you do not feel that you are being treated with respect, remember that you have the right to halt or end the process of filing a report.*

6. Would you like any additional resources at this time? Yes No

- ❖ CCRI Safety Center: The CCRI Safety Center contains a lot of thorough and detailed information, including step-by-step suggestions on various paths you might consider next. <https://cybercivilrights.org/ccri-safety-center>
- ❖ Attorneys: This CCRI Roster includes attorneys who may be able to offer low or pro bono assistance. <https://cybercivilrights.org/professionals-helping-victims/>
- ❖ International Resources: This intake form is intended for victim-survivors who reside in the United States. International support may be found here: <https://cybercivilrights.org/intl-victim-resources/>
- ❖ Image Monitoring Services: Many services offer online image monitoring for a monthly or annual fee. Please note that CCRI does not endorse or make recommendations regarding any particular service. To decide if this is right for you, please select a service with care, and carefully read both cancellation policies and company reviews.

Other Intake Notes if Needed:
