

Procedure for Legal Support Providers

Thank you for participating in our study! This study is about *tech abuse*, which includes any time that a perpetrator uses technology to spy on, stalk, or harass another person. Specifically, we are interested in how evidence of tech abuse is collected and presented in legal proceedings.

Today, I want you to focus only on what you have observed in your own cases or your colleagues' cases - not what you believe *could* be used as evidence. We would also like to focus only on cases between two adults (18+) - though if evidence was ever captured from a child's device in these cases, we also want to hear about that.

We do not need or want to know any identifying information about any of the individuals in these cases. When telling us about cases, please refer to them as the client, perpetrator, etc. without using names. If you accidentally name someone, we will remove that identifying information from the study data.

We'll ask about the types of evidence you have observed and how useful or not useful those have been in practice. Do you have any questions before we get started?

Warm-ups

0. What is your current role (*related to this study*)? What does that entail?
 - a. What types of legal proceedings do you provide support for?
1. What kinds of tech abuse do you see in your work?
 - a. In which abuse context is the tech abuse happening? (E.g., IPV, SA)

What does evidence of tech abuse look like in practice?

2. What kinds of *evidence* of tech abuse have you observed?
 - a. What **form** does the evidence take? (E.g., screenshots)
 - b. What **information** does the evidence provide? (E.g., *harassing messages*)
 - i. E.g., what type of device was being used maliciously?

- c. What kinds of **legal context** is the evidence used for? (E.g., *restraining order injunction, no-contact order violation*)
 - d. Which **context of abuse** does the evidence come from? (E.g., IPV, SA)
- 3. We see some forms of tech abuse in our clinic more often than others. These are things like: accounts being accessed without consent, tracking with GPS trackers or AirTags, tracking with apps, tracking with cars, tracking with shared phone plans, spyware. Have you ever encountered those types of tech abuse in your work?

What works and doesn't work?

- 4. In your experience, what makes evidence of tech abuse successful in legal proceedings?
 - a. Which evidence **forms** are most likely to be admitted? Why?
 - b. Which types of **information** captured in evidence are most useful?
 - c. Does success depend on the type of **legal proceeding** or **abuse context** in which the evidence is used?
- 5. What challenges do you/your clients face when collecting/presenting evidence of tech abuse?
 - a. Have you ever seen evidence **not admitted** in court (or didn't make it to court at all)? Why wasn't it admitted?
 - b. Has evidence ever been **admitted, but not useful** towards bolstering the case? Why wasn't it useful?
 - c. [collectors only] Was there ever a time when you wanted to provide evidence of tech abuse in court, but you/your client were **not able to collect it**?
 - i. What difficulties, if any, have you seen in collecting evidence of technology abuse from a **certain app or technology**?
 - ii. What other difficulties have you faced while collecting evidence of tech abuse?
 - d. [advocates only] Was there ever an instance when you believed your client was experiencing tech abuse, but there **wasn't any concrete evidence** to prove it?

- e. [non-judges] Have you observed any **disparities** in the ways that judges react to evidence of tech abuse due to the survivors' (or perpetrators') identities? This could include age, race, gender, socioeconomic status, religion, or other identities.
- f. What is the role of **expert testimony** in presenting this evidence? Is this a barrier?

Collecting evidence

- 6. [collectors only] What is the process for collecting evidence of tech abuse?
 - a. **Who** does the evidence collection - the client, you, or someone else?
 - b. How do you/the client **decide** when something should be collected as evidence?
 - i. **When** is the evidence collected? (*i.e., right when it is discovered, or only when preparing for court*)
 - c. **How** is the evidence collected? (*E.g., using screenshots, evidence collection apps, police services*)
 - d. Once evidence is collected, where is it **stored**?
 - e. How did you **learn** these strategies for collecting evidence of tech abuse? *E.g., did you receive any **training**?*
- 7. Moving forward, what changes would be needed to better support the use of evidence of tech abuse in legal proceedings?