



# TECHNOLOGY SAFETY SERIES: Abuse Using Technology

BY FLORENCE VICIL

AS A COURTESY TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS' SHELTERS

1



## FLORENCE'S BIO

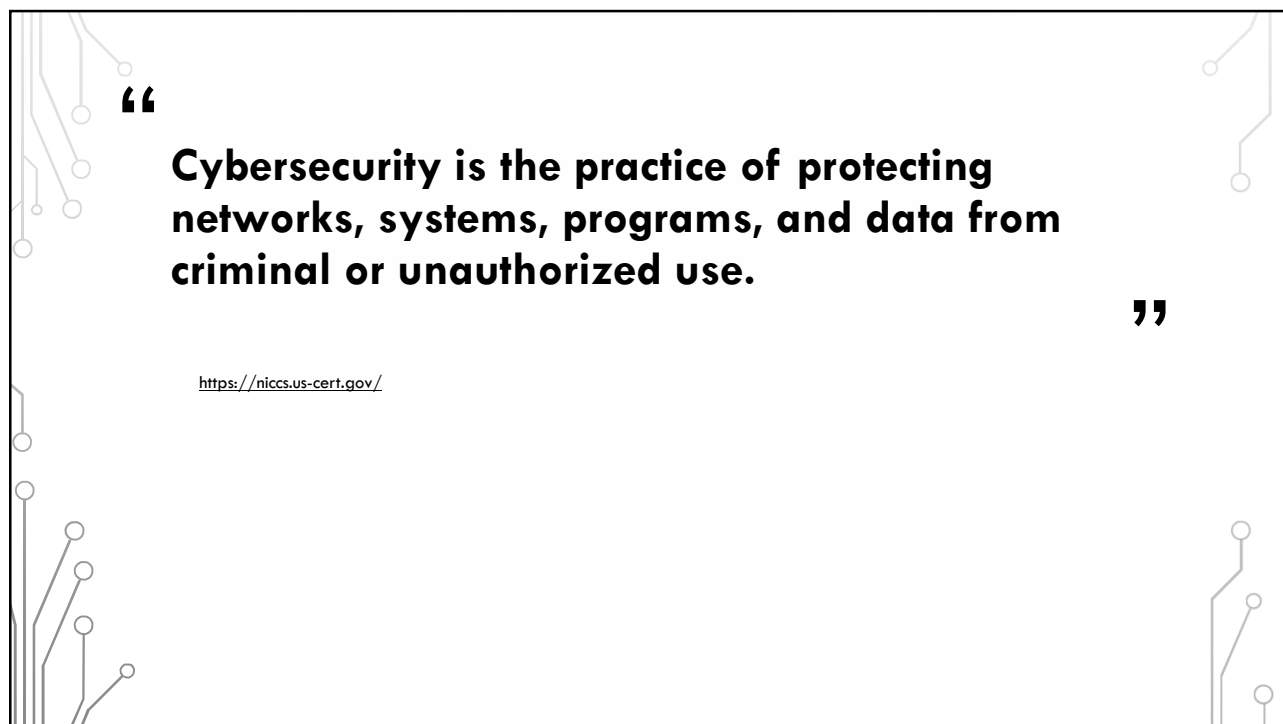
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2



3



4

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – WHO?

- Abusers:
  - Current or former partners
  - Strangers
- Victims:
  - Any person and/or their children, family or friends



5

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – CRIMES: DEFINITIONS

- **Credible threat** = a verbal or nonverbal threat, or a combination of the two, including threats delivered by electronic communication or implied by a pattern of conduct, which places the person who is the target of the threat in reasonable fear for his or her safety or the safety of his or her family members or individuals closely associated with the person, and which is made with the apparent ability to carry out the threat to cause such harm
- It is not necessary to prove that the person making the threat had the intent to actually carry out the threat.
- The present incarceration of the person making the threat is not a bar to prosecution under this section.

6

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – CRIMES: DEFINITIONS

- **Harassment** = to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person which causes substantial emotional distress to that person and serves no legitimate purpose (§784.048(1)a)
- **Course of conduct** = means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, which evidences a continuity of purpose (§784.048(1)b)
- **Cyberstalking** = to cause substantial emotional distress to a person and serving no legitimate purpose by:
  - Engaging in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person; or
  - Accessing, or attempting to access, the online accounts or Internet-connected home electronic systems of another person without that person's permission (§784.048(1)d)

7

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – CRIMES: MISDEMEANORS

- **Stalking** = to willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person (§784.048(2))
- **Sexual cyberharassment** = to publish a sexually explicit image of another to Internet websites or to disseminate such an image through electronic means without the depicted person's consent, contrary to the depicted person's reasonable expectation of privacy, for no legitimate purpose, with the intent of causing substantial emotional distress to the depicted person (§784.049(2)(c))



8

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – CRIMES: FELONIES

- **Sexual cyberharassment**
  - If prior conviction (§784.049(3)(b))
- **Aggravated stalking** = to willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person and makes a credible threat to that person (§784.048(3))
- **Aggravated stalking**
  - If victim is child under 16 yoa (§784.048(5))
  - If after injunction (§784.048(4)), credible threat not required
  - If after sentencing for certain sexual crimes (§784.048(7))

9

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – FL COMPUTER CRIMES ACT (§815)

- **Felonies**
  - Offenses against intellectual property
  - Disclosure of trade secrets (§812.081)
  - Unauthorized access, disruption of data/service/medical equipment, destruction of equipment, introduction of computer contaminant, audio or video surveillance, fraud, endangering human life
- **Misdemeanors**
  - Modifying equipment



10

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – OTHER CRIMES

- Tampering with or harassing a witness/victim/informant (§914.22)
  - Hinder communication with LEO
- Tampering with or fabricating physical evidence (§918.13)
- Written threats to kill or do bodily injury (§836.10)
- Obscene or harassing phone calls (§365.16)
  - Cause phone to ring repeatedly

11

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – HOW?

- Social media, text messages, email
- Computer activities, tablets
- Online accounts (phone, bank, etc.)
- Phone apps/features, phone land line
- Spoofing (caller ID, replyTo email)
- GPS tracking
- Gathering online data
- Posting abusive content online
  - Nonconsensual pornography (Revenge Porn)
  - Sextortion
- Toys/gifts with hidden “spying” technology
  - Cameras, microphones, GPS
- Smart/connected/wearable devices, IoT
  - Roadside assistance/safe driver service



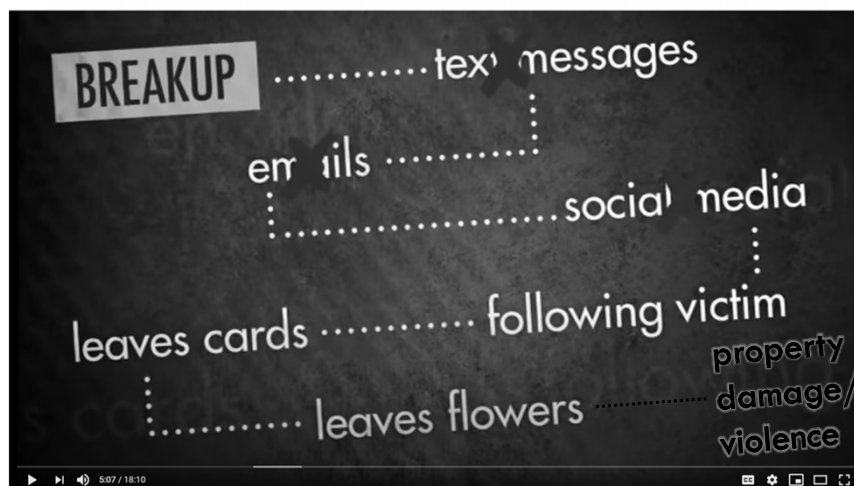
12

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – **HOW?**

- Assistive technology/devices
  - Smart home assistants
  - Environmental control devices
  - Personal emergency response systems
  - Adaptive tools
  - Mobility aids
  - Communication aids

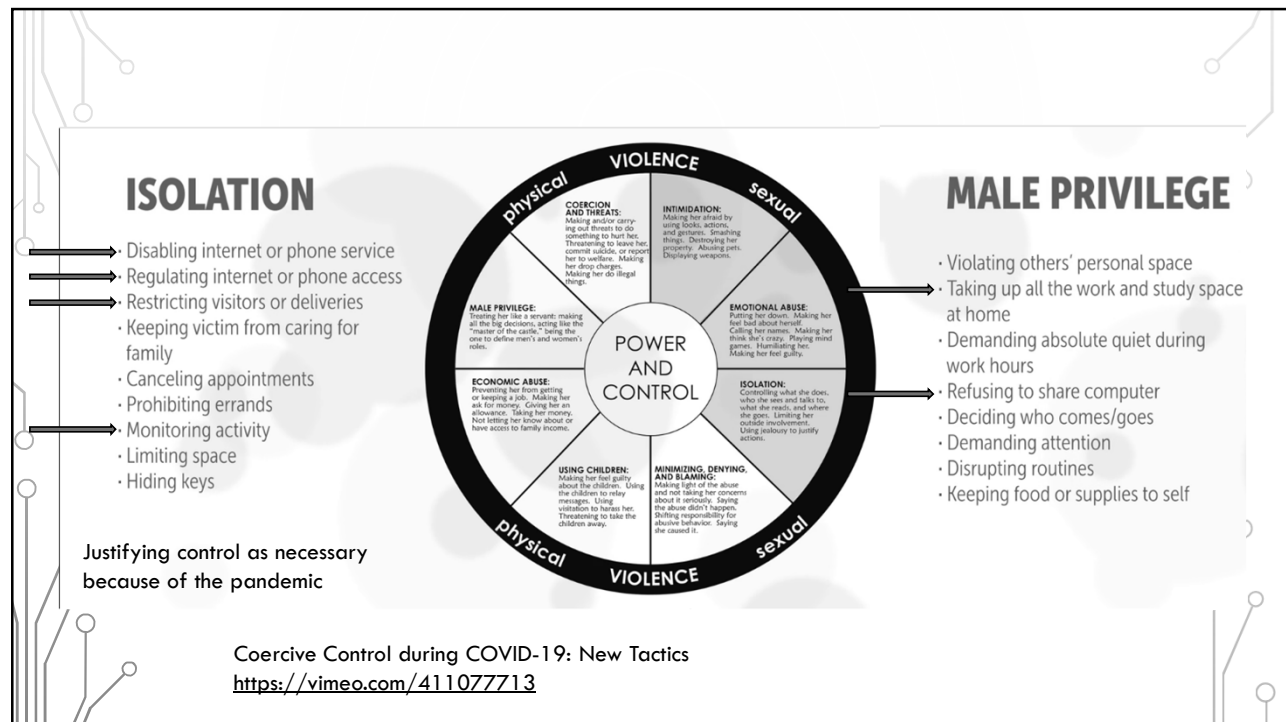


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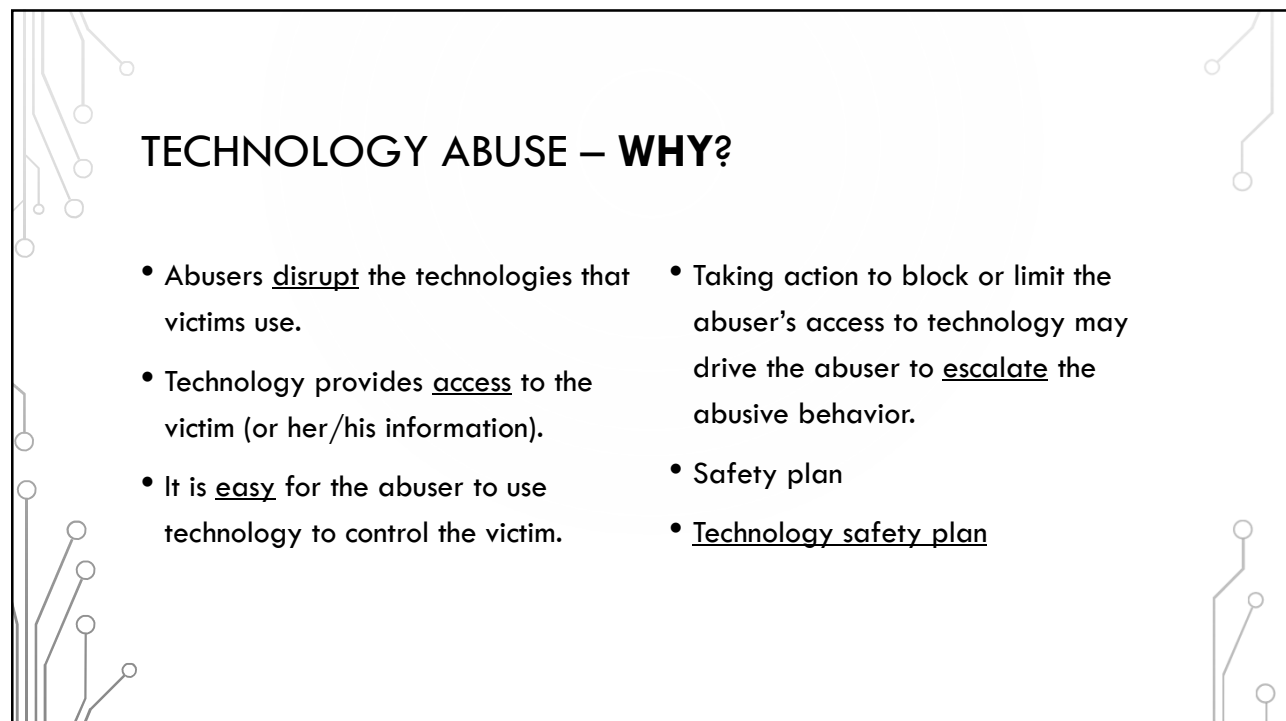


Connecting the Dots: Recognizing and Responding to Stalking  
<http://www.evawintl.org/Library/Detail.aspx?ItemID=659>

14



15



16



## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – ASSESS THE SITUATION

- **What's happening?**

- Does it seem like the abuser knows too much about the victim?
- What technologies are being affected?
- How is the abuser gaining access to the victim's technologies?



- **Can the victim mitigate the situation?**

- Does the victim have the resources necessary?
- Is the victim tech savvy enough?
- Is there a current safety plan?
- Can the safety plan be adapted?
- How can the victim avoid family and friends compromising the safety plan?

17

## THE PLAN

18

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – WHAT TO DO?

### • Preserve evidence

- Screenshot/record video/audio
  - Messages/emails/voicemails (visual)
  - Documents/pictures/videos
  - Call logs/transient evidence
- Send evidence to secure repository
- Print evidence
- Backup everything in separate storage
- Google Alerts

### • Document the abuse with an incident log

- Record details of every abuse incident
- Dates, places (tech), witnesses, evidence
- Note beginning and end of behaviors
- Change in frequency of behaviors
- Escalation of behaviors
- Actions victim has taken to mitigate the abuser's behaviors




19

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – SAMPLE LOGS

Information About the Abuser		Description of the Abuse	
Name of the person abusing or stalking you.		Date:	Time:
Relationship of that person to you (if relevant).		Describe the event:	
Contact information of that person			
Home address	Work address	Type of technology involved:	
Phone number(s)	Email address(es)		
Online account(s), including screen name & type of online account (facebook, etc.)		Were there any witnesses? What are their names?	
Other information about the abuser (that might be relevant)		<b>Documentation</b> If you were able to document the abuse, what type of documentation do you have?	
<a href="https://www.techsafety.org/documentationtips">https://www.techsafety.org/documentationtips</a>		<b>Other information</b> Did you report it to the police? If so, what is the report number and officer name?	
		Did you go to the hospital/see a doctor? If so, what was the hospital/doctor name?	

20

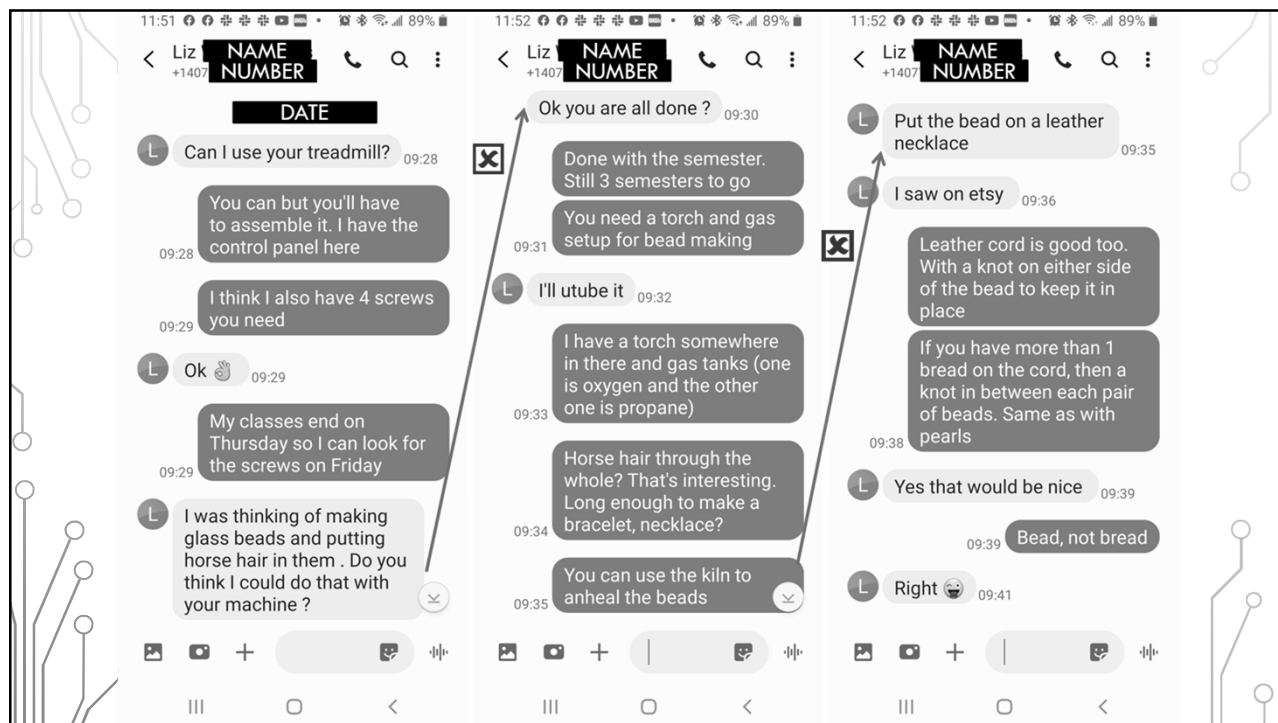


## STALKING INCIDENT LOG

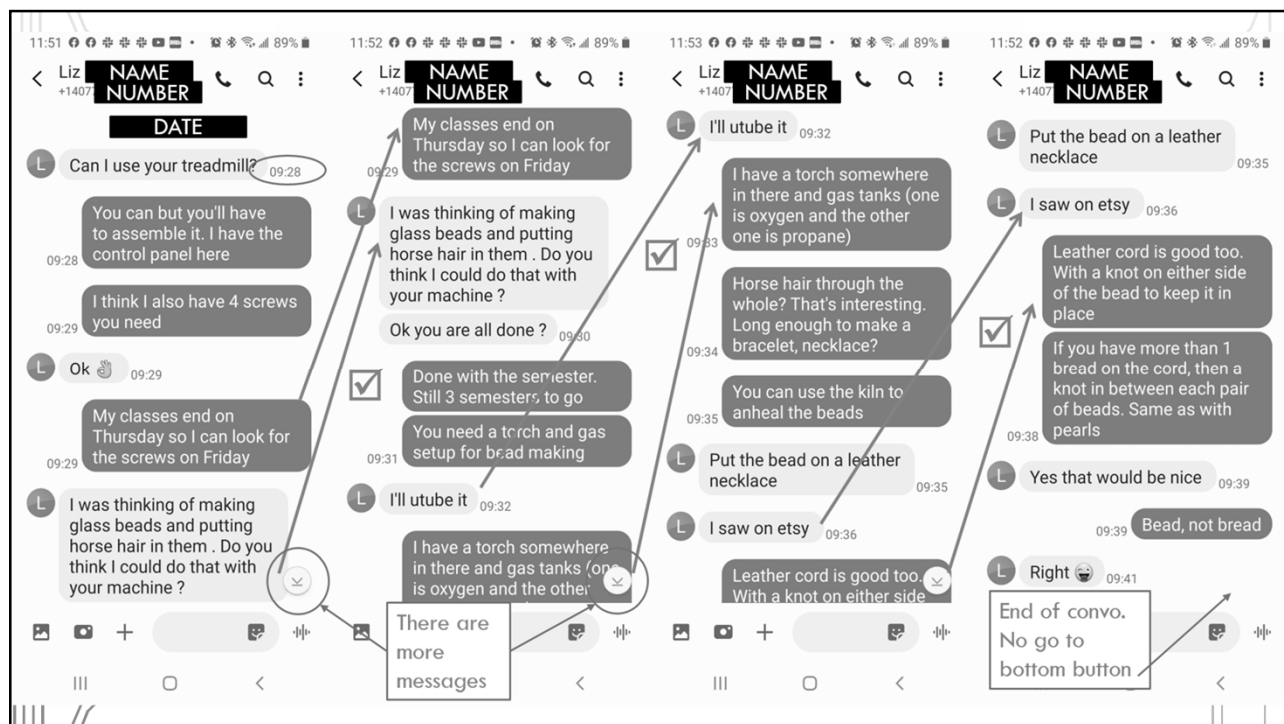
Date	Time	Description of Incident	Location of Incident (or device/ account, etc.)	Witness Name(s) (Attach Address and Phone #)	Police Called (Report #)	Officer Name (Badge #)

[https://www.stalkingawareness.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SPARC\\_StalkingLogInstructions\\_2018\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.stalkingawareness.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SPARC_StalkingLogInstructions_2018_FINAL.pdf)

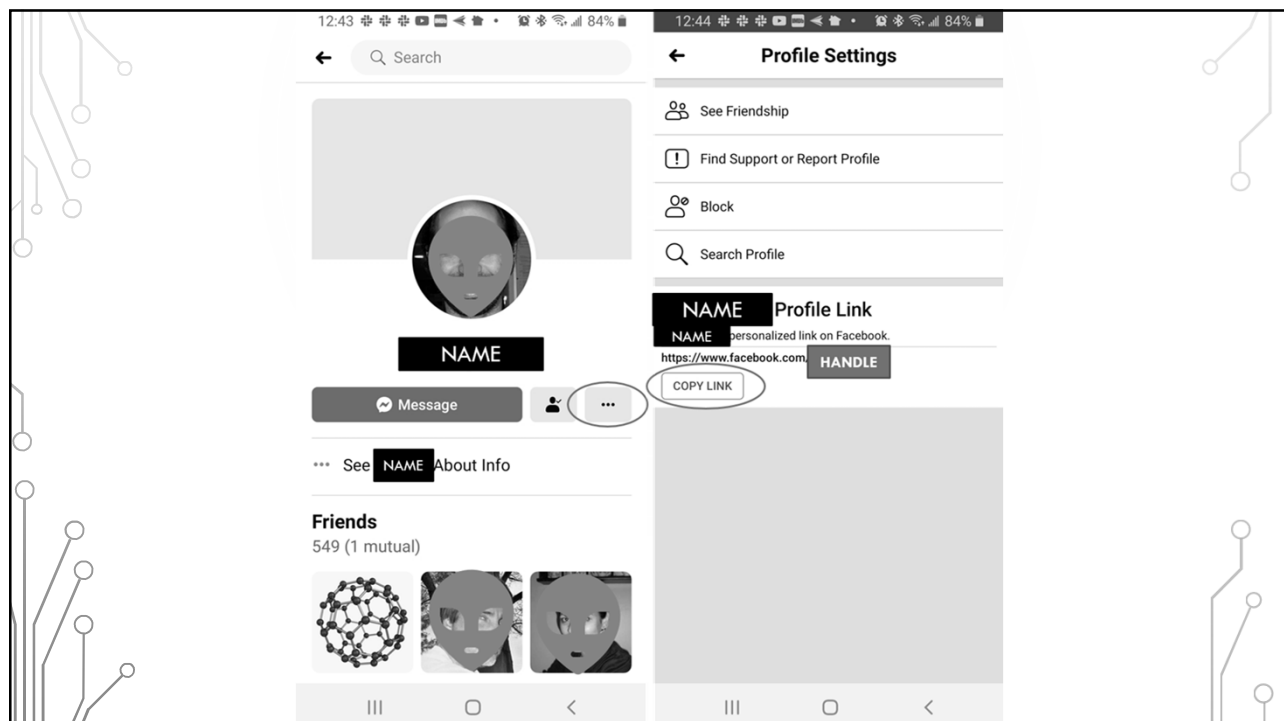
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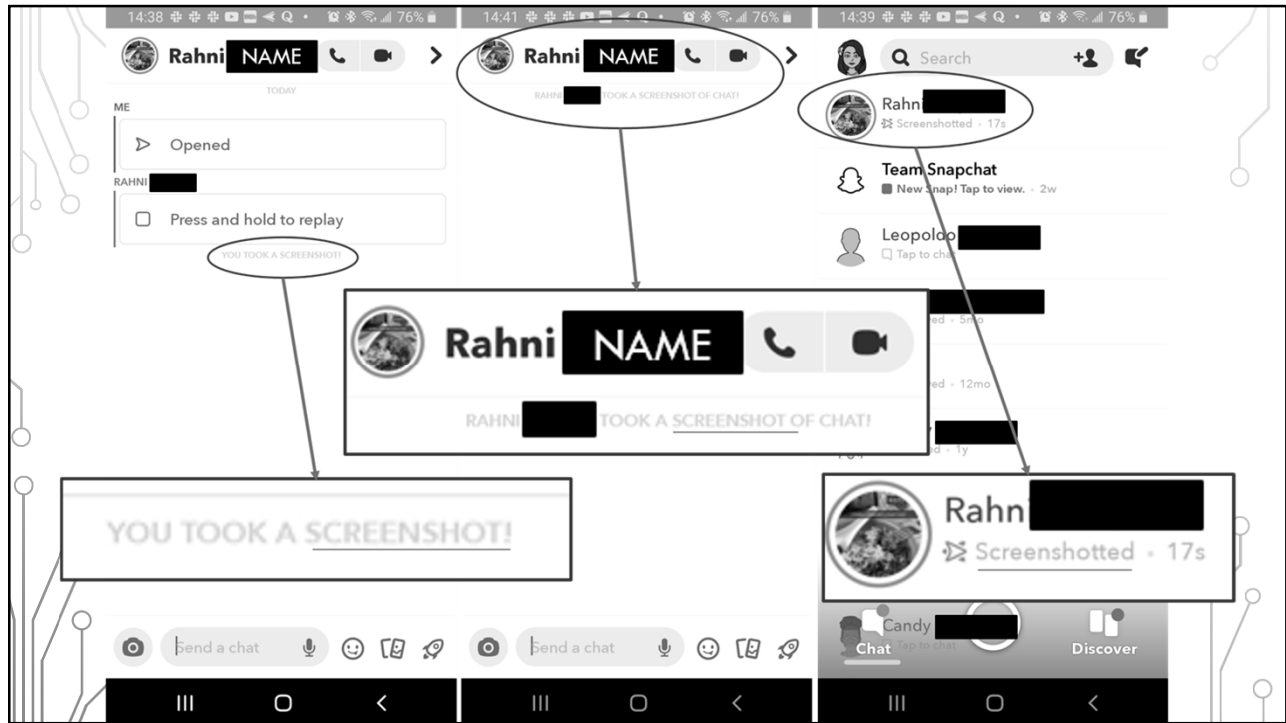
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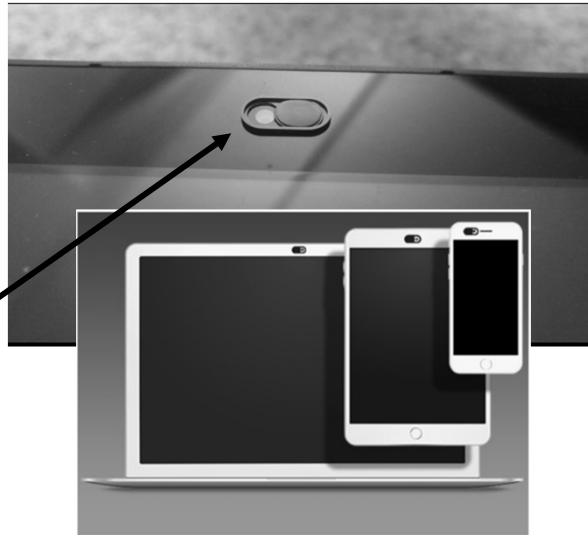
26



## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – WHAT TO DO?

### • Practice digital hygiene

- Decrease digital footprint
- Use good password habits
  - Password manager
- Use multi-factor authentication
- Use privacy settings
- Always log out
- Use webcam cover



29

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – WHAT TO DO?

### • Avoid malware

- Keep software up to date
- Use security software



### • Limit device communication/location

#### • Disable

- WiFi/Bluetooth
- Peripherals/microphone
- GPS location/geo-tagging of media
  - Metadata = data about data
- Notifications

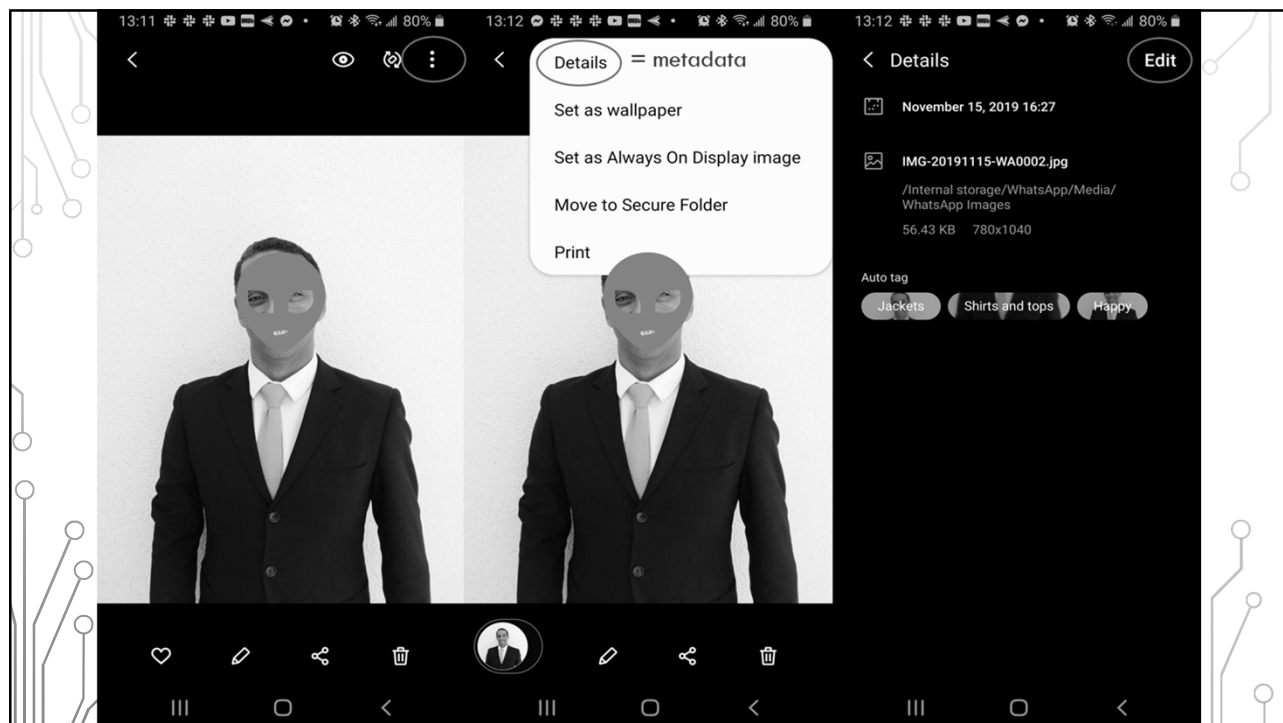


- Some messages cannot be deleted
- Replace or duplicate devices/accounts/log in information
  - Devices you trust
  - Devices you don't trust
- Keep old devices/accounts
  - To not alert abuser of the changes
  - To collect evidence

30

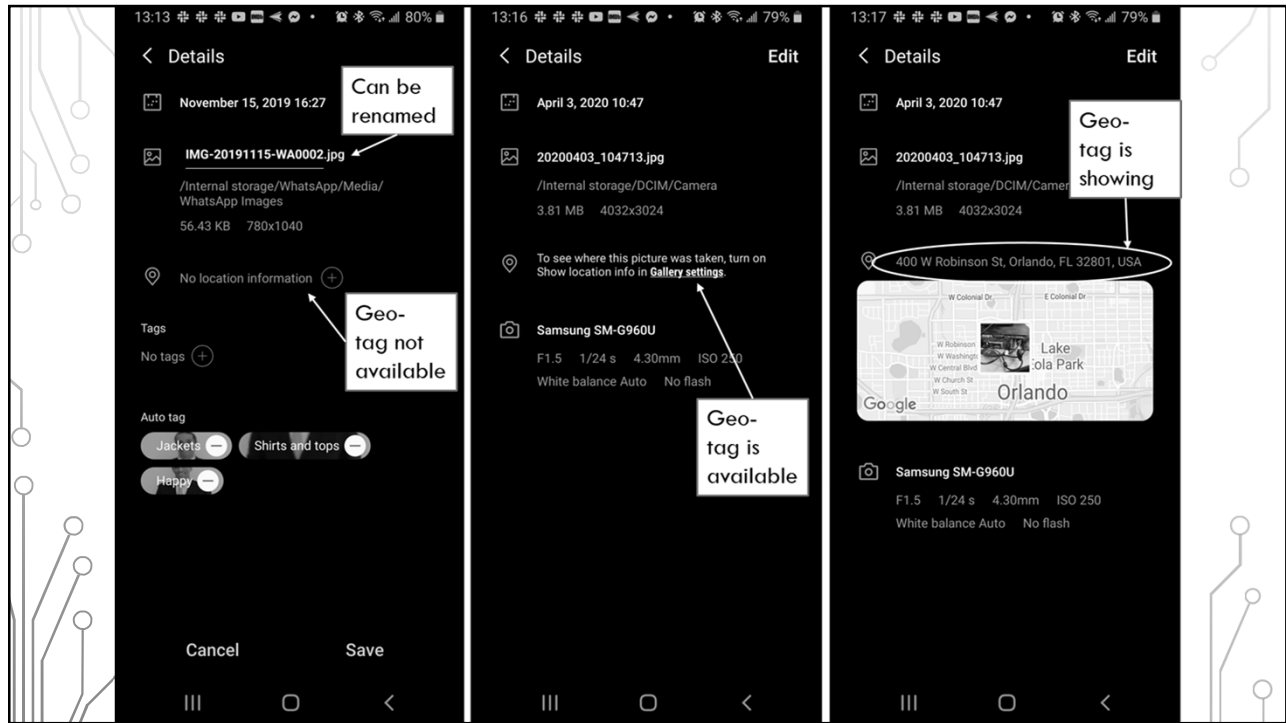


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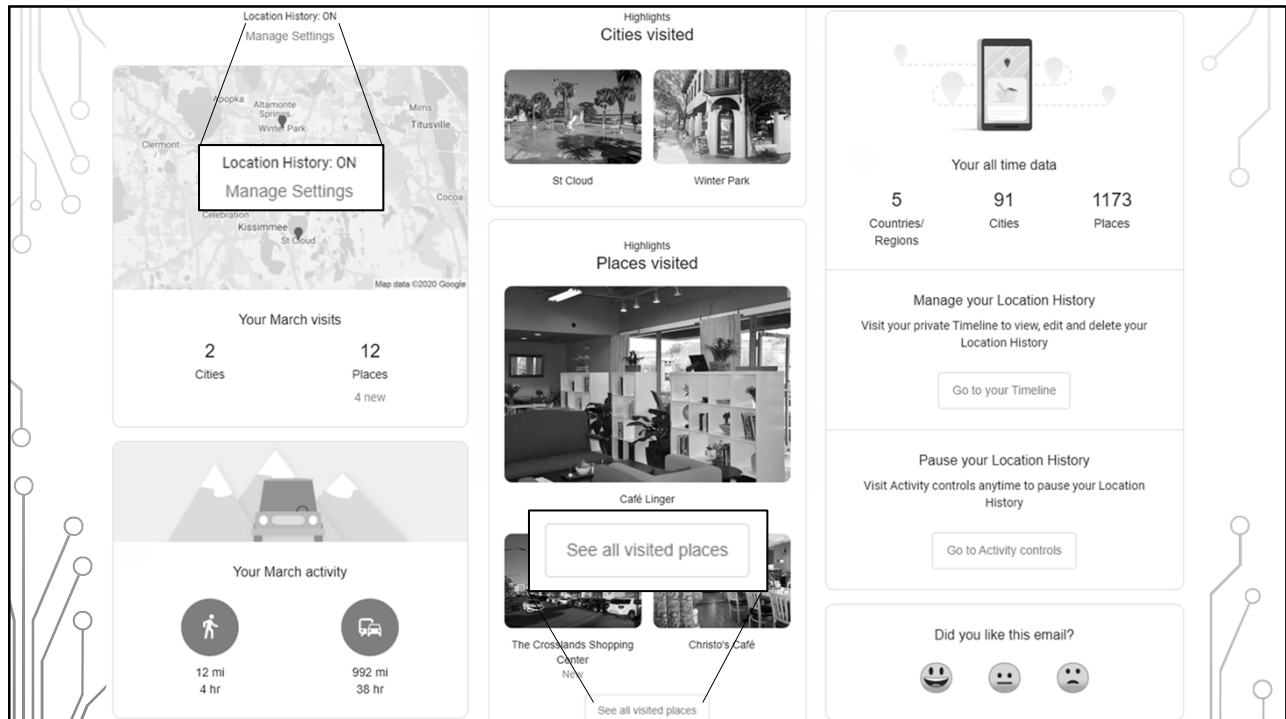


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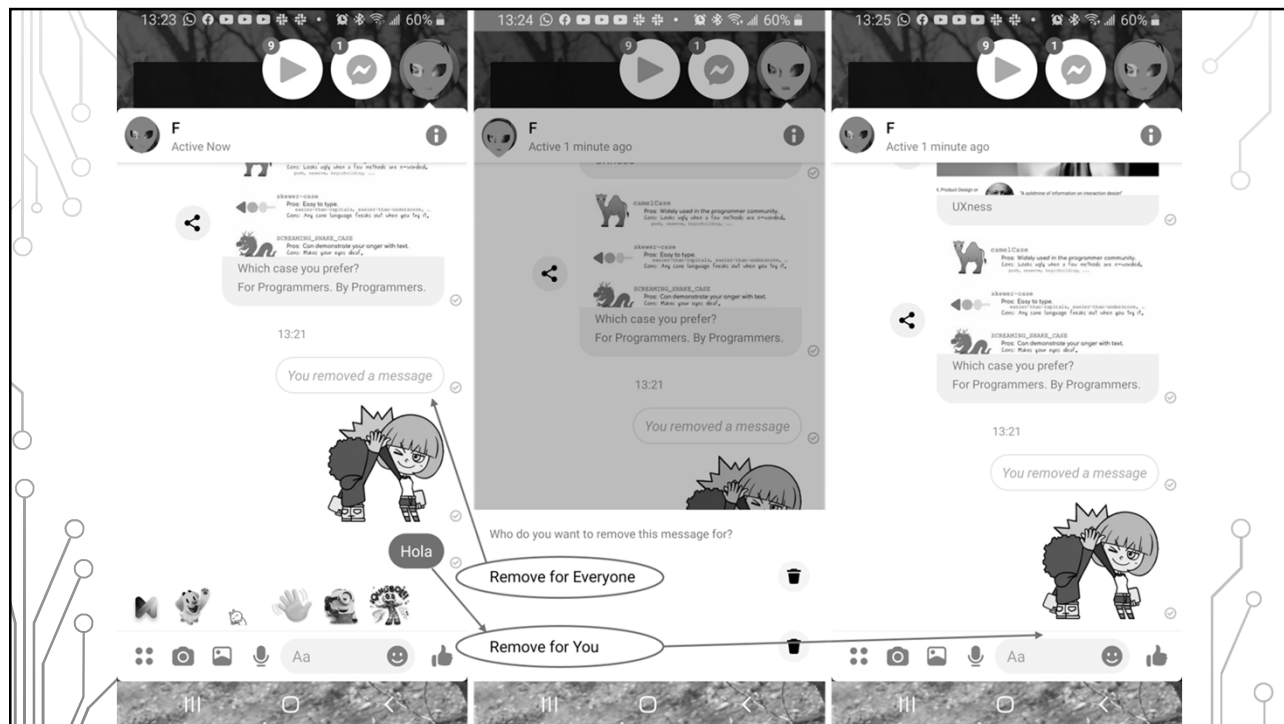




33



34



35

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – WHAT TO DO?

- **Restrict access to your information**

- **Freeze** credit/accounts
  - <https://www.annualcreditreport.com>
  - <http://www.nctue.com/>
  - <https://www.innovis.com/>
  - <https://www.chexsystems.com/>
- Florida Attorney General's **Address Confidentiality Program**
  - <http://www.fcpti.com/fcpti.nsf/pages/AddressConfidentialityProgram>

- Request **family violence indicators** be placed on records to trigger nondisclosure
  - §61.1825(3)(a) State Case Registry
- Request **exemption from public records**
  - §119.071(2)(j)1 General exemptions from inspection or copying of public records

36

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – WHAT TO DO?

### • Limit the information you share

- Do not share accounts with the abuser
- Opt out of data collection (third-party tracking)
- Disable password saving in browsers/apps
- Do not share contact lists to see if your contacts are using the same service/network
- Make online profiles non-searchable

### • Report the abuse

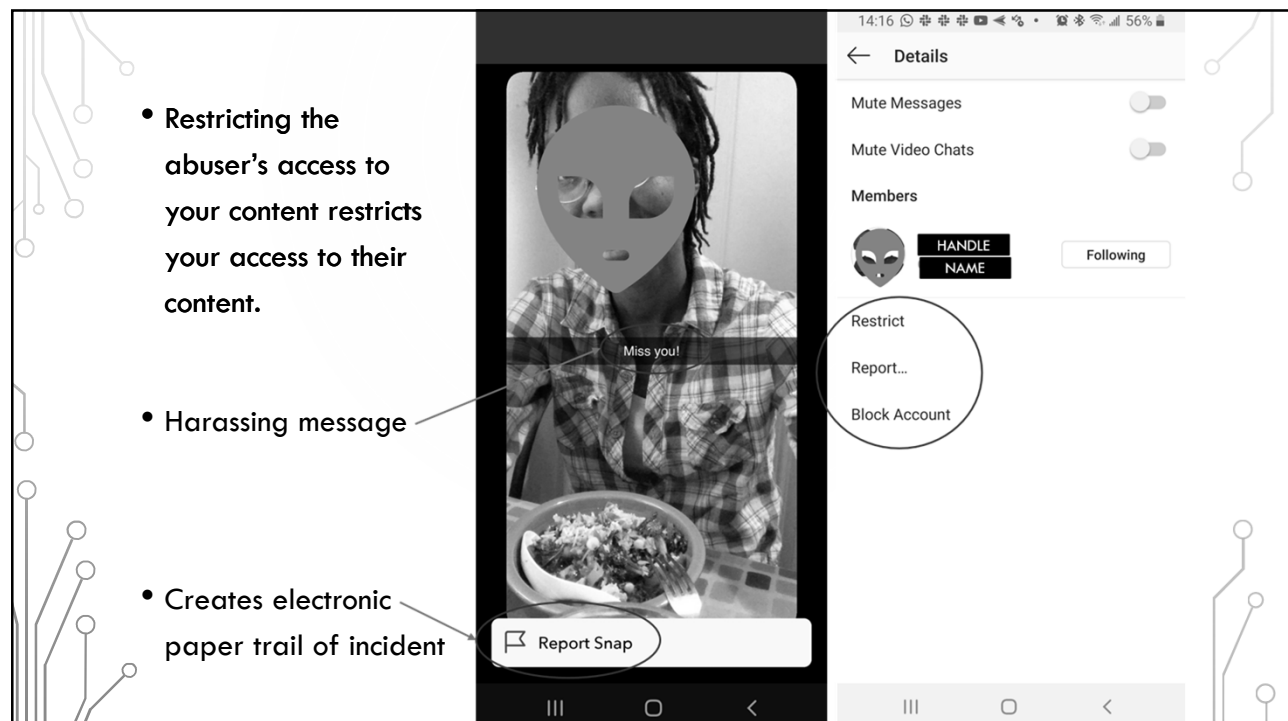
- Local law enforcement
- Florida Computer Crime Center
  - <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FCCC>
- FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center
  - <https://www.ic3.gov/>
- Website/platform flags

37

### • Restricting the abuser's access to your content restricts your access to their content.

### • Harassing message

### • Creates electronic paper trail of incident



38

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – WHAT TO DO?

### • Seek legal protection

- No contact orders
- Injunctions
  - In person
    - <https://www.myorangeclerk.com/Divisions/Family/Restraining-Orders>
  - Florida Courts E-Filing Portal
    - <https://www.myflcourtagency.com/>

### • Pressing charges

- Legal Aid
  - <https://www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Court-Improvement/Family-Courts/Family-Law-Self-Help-Information/Legal-Aid>
- Evidence based prosecution

39

## TECHNOLOGY ABUSE – WHAT TO DO?

### • Educate children, family, and friends

- I am Cyber Safe
  - <https://www.iamcybersafe.org/>
- Family Online Safety Institute
  - <https://www.fosi.org/>
- Online Safety for Kids & Families
  - <https://www.missingkids.org/NetSmartz>

### • Facebook's Digital Literacy Library

- <https://www.facebook.com/safety/educators>
- Safe Online Surfing (SOS) - FBI
  - <https://sos.fbi.gov/en/>
- STOP. THINK. CONNECT. Toolkit - CISA
  - <https://www.cisa.gov/stopthinkconnect-toolkit>

40

## RESOURCES

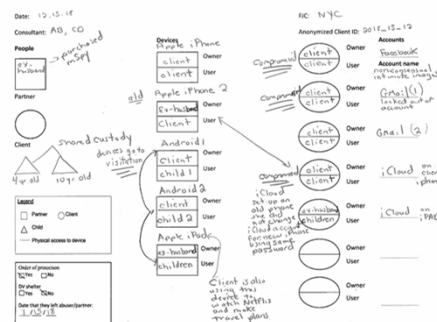
41

## COMPUTER SECURITY AND PRIVACY FOR SURVIVORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

- <https://www.ipvtechresearch.org/re>

### sources

- Technology Assessment Questionnaire (TAQ)
- Privacy Checkup Guides
- IPV Spyware Discovery Tool (ISDi)
- Technograph
- App Classification Guide



42

## NATIONAL NETWORK TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- <https://www.techsafety.org/>
  - Survivor Toolkit
  - App Safety Center
  - Agency Use toolkit
  - Digital Services Toolkit
  - Confidentiality Toolkit
  - Legal Systems Toolkit
  - Judicial Toolkit

### *Technology Safety*

exploring technology in the context of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and violence against women

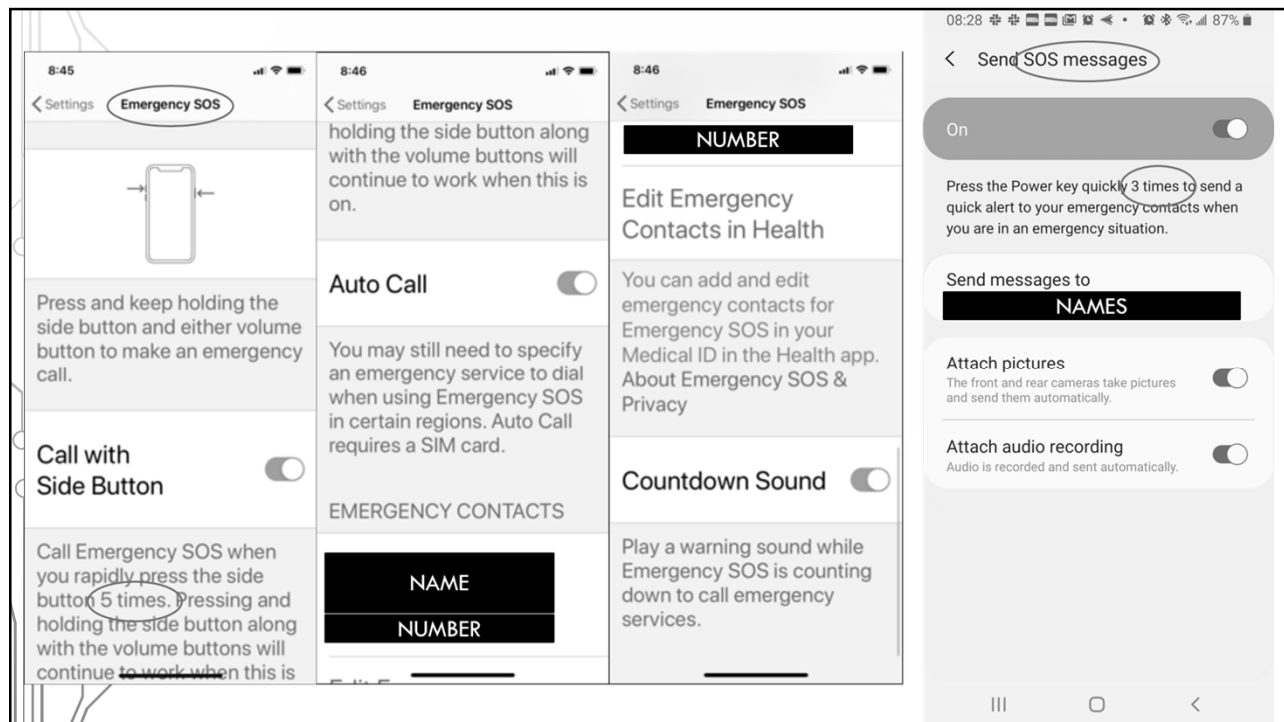
43

## PHONE APPS AND FEATURES

- <https://techsafetyapp.org/>
- <https://www.circleof6app.com/>
- <https://kineticglobal.com/>
- <https://getbsafe.com/>
- <https://www.myplanapp.org/>
- SOS feature
  - Android
  - iOS
- Any phone will call 911 regardless of service subscription status



44



45

## OTHER RESOURCES

- How to Gather Technology Abuse Evidence for Court
  - <https://www.flcourts.org/content/download/425826/4589773/how-to-gather-technology-abuse-evidence-for-court.pdf>
- DIY Cybersecurity for Domestic Violence
  - <https://hackblossom.org/domestic-violence/>
- Stalking online training from the National Center for Victims of Crime
  - <http://www.tech2stalk.com/>
- Tech and safety online course from the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
  - <https://domesticviolencetraining.fcadv.org/>

46

## OTHER RESOURCES

- Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (End Revenge Porn)
  - <https://www.cybercivilrights.org/>
- Gender and IoT (G-IoT) Resource List
  - <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/steapp/sites/steapp/files/g-iot-resource-list.pdf>
- Electronic Privacy Information Center
  - <https://epic.org/>
- Facebook's Safety Center
  - <https://www.facebook.com/safety/resources>
- Connect Safely
  - <https://www.connectsafely.org/>
- Media Smart
  - <https://mediasmarts.ca/>

47

## OTHER RESOURCES

- Digital abuse article series
  - <https://www.thehotline.org/category/behind-the-screens/>
- Social Media Security & Privacy Checklists – New York Times
  - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ud1ILFkIG0BeLX9jIzJMxCpm8-cSeqPjU60nkhUPYA8/edit>



48



