

# REVENGE PORN AND

# WHY IT IS NEVER

# ACCEPTABLE



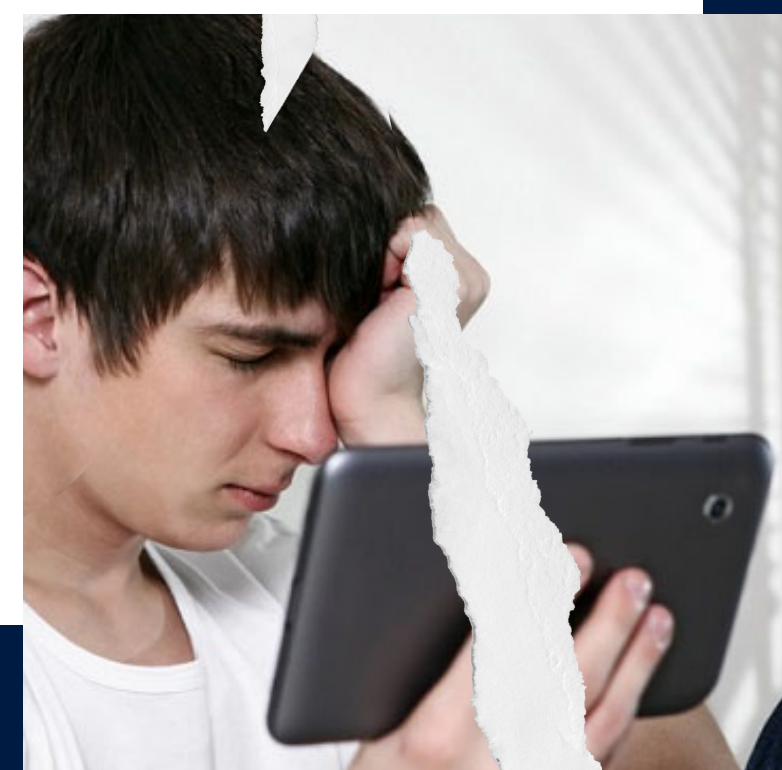
We at LawEd, feel there is a lack of information and support in the field of revenge porn. **Revenge porn is a topic a lot of the country tends to shy away from, as discussing sex and intimate relationships can be an awkward and cringey conversation to have.** However, there are still people that are exploiting others and humiliating them through acts such as revenge porn and this is a complete violation of people's human rights. Throughout this blog, we will discuss what revenge porn actually is, the legislation in place surrounding this offence at present and the consequences it can leave on a person.

Revenge porn can be defined as **'revealing or sexually explicit images or videos of a person posted on the internet, typically by a former sexual partner, without the consent of the subject and in order to cause them distress or embarrassment'**.

So, what are the laws surrounding this crime? Well, in 2020, the **Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act** was passed, this is also known as Coco's law and deals with offences related to bullying and harassment online. It is known as Coco's Law because of Jackie Foxx, mother of Nicole Foxx who fought for this legislation to be passed on behalf of her late daughter, who took her life at the hands of intense bullying online. Within this piece of legislation it is stated that **those who engage in revenge porn with intent to harass or harm another person could face up to 12 months imprisonment and/or a hefty fine. Before this, revenge porn was only protected by a definition of harassment under the Non Fatal Offences Against the State Act**, and even at this there were loopholes in the legislation to worm your way out of an offence regarding revenge porn. The progression in legislation under Coco's Law is obviously a **positive step forward towards making revenge porn something of the past**, however the issue is still standing today, and it needs to be addressed.

Long story short, something switches in the relationship and it turns out, that a love like this won't last forever. They decide to part ways, leaving one person in the relationship feeling a little more hard done by than the other. In a bid to get back at their ex, they reflect on the explicit imagery that they shared between each other at a time when they had full trust and love for one another. **They start sharing and spreading these images around to people they know their ex would have never liked them to be viewed by.** They do this in a bid to anger their ex, or make them feel as low as they did when the relationship ended.

We at LawEd want to stress that **it is never okay to act recklessly based on temporary emotions.** If, for some reason things don't work out with someone you saw yourself being in a relationship with for a very long time, the last thing you want to do is intentionally jeopardise their life forever. People may look at revenge porn as something which happens one day and is forgotten about the next, that it is merely something the person in the photos takes too seriously, but this is not the case. **Revenge porn can hinder potential job opportunities, other relationships and can also play a big role in how that person views themselves going forward.** Break-ups are tough, we all know this, and it can be hurtful when things don't work out and the dynamic changes, but **this is never an excuse or reason to intentionally harm someone by committing a very serious crime and ending up in an even worse situation.**





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If you find yourself falling victim to revenge porn, **speak up**. Voice it to an adult or someone you are close with, **a problem shared is a problem halved**. There is no shame in asking for help and **there is certainly no shame in being a victim of this vile act**. We hope that this blog post helped you understand the gravity of revenge porn. We have attached some helplines below.

**Rape Crisis Network Ireland - 1800 77 8888**

**Womens Aid - 1800 341 900**

**Victim Assistance - 1800 277 477**

