

# here to help



**CYBERSCAN**  
*CyberScan Unit*

To talk with someone at CyberScan, call:  
**902-424-6990** within the Halifax Regional  
Municipality (HRM) or **1-855-702-8324**.

[cyberscan.novascotia.ca](http://cyberscan.novascotia.ca)





# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## Q: What is *cyberbullying*?

**A:** Cyberbullying is when someone uses electronic communication – such as email, text messages, social media – to bully someone else. The person responsible for the communication either maliciously harmed or intended to cause harm to someone's health or well-being, or did so without thinking or caring about the consequences of their actions.

Examples of cyberbullying

- revealing sensitive personal facts or confidential information
- threatening or intimidating another person
- communicating in a way that is grossly offensive, indecent, or obscene
- harassing another person
- making a false accusation
- assuming the online identity of another person
- encouraging another person to commit suicide
- criticizing or disparaging another person because of a prohibited ground of discrimination
- encouraging another person to do any of the above

## Q: What is an *intimate image*?

**A:** An intimate image is a visual recording of a person. This includes photographs, films, or videos in which a person depicted in the image is:

- nude
- exposing their genitals or anal region
- exposing her breasts
- engaged in explicit sexual activity

The person in the image had a reasonable expectation of privacy when the image was recorded or distributed, that is, they expected the image to be seen or shared only among people of their choosing.

## Q: What does it mean to share an intimate image without consent?

**A:** To share an image without consent means posting or sharing the images without permission of the person depicted in the image or being reckless as to whether that person permitted it to be shared.

**Reckless** means not thinking or caring about the consequences of your actions. Being reckless as to whether a person consented means not bothering to find out if the person consented.

## Q: What do I do if I am being cyberbullied or if someone shared an intimate image of me without my consent?

**A:** There is a dedicated team whose job is to help victims of cyberbullying and people whose intimate images were shared without consent. This team is called CyberScan. If you think you or someone you know is being cyberbullied, call CyberScan at 902-424-6990 (within HRM) or 1-855-702-8324 (toll-free).

## Q: Who can contact CyberScan?

**A:** Anyone can contact CyberScan. This includes young people who feel they are being cyberbullied or are the victim of unwanted sharing of intimate images, their parents, teachers, principals, police, or other members of the public.

## Q: What will happen to the person responsible?

**A:** CyberScan will try to stop what is happening by talking with everyone involved. The persons responsible often do not understand the seriousness of their behaviour.

Where possible, CyberScan will seek to resolve the matter informally using restorative practices or other approaches. CyberScan will help victims through the process if they choose to apply for a protection order.

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# Under the New Law

Victims can get help from the Provincial CyberScan Unit or get an order from the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

An order can be issued to stop the behaviour. These orders can:

- forbid someone from sharing an intimate image
- forbid someone from posting communications that would be considered cyberbullying
- forbid someone from contacting the victim in the future
- order a person to take down or disable access to an intimate image or communication
- declare that an image is an intimate image or that communication is cyberbullying
- award damages
- refer the matter to dispute-resolution services

***Damages*** are an amount of money the court orders a person to pay for causing harm to another person.

# The Process

If you believe you are the victim of cyberbullying or that an intimate image of you was shared without your consent contact CyberScan at **902-424-6990** in HRM or **toll free at 855-702-8324**.

Visit **[cyberscan.novascotia.ca](https://cyberscan.novascotia.ca)** to learn how to apply for a court order or for more information on additional supports.

CyberScan or the court will help you take the necessary steps to stop the cyberbullying, and, in some cases, get an order for damages.



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