

How to report online abuse

Any allegation of abuse against children should be reported, however small.

Online child abuse includes searching for, sharing and downloading images of children being physically and sexually abused and approaching children online with the intention of developing a sexual relationship in the 'real' world (so-called 'grooming'). Such approaches can involve the assumption of a false identity, in particular the pretence of being a child, although this isn't always the case.

Other forms of abuse include children being sent indecent or obscene images, being asked to send indecent images of themselves or their friends, being engaged in sexually explicit talk and being encouraged to perform sexually explicit acts on themselves or their friends (so-called 'cybersex'), and 'cyberstalking'.

Cyberstalking is the use of the internet or other electronic means to stalk or harass an individual. It may include the making of false accusations or statements of fact (as in defamation), monitoring, making threats, identity theft, damage to data or equipment, the solicitation of minors for sex, or gathering information that may be used to harass. Like grooming, cyberstalking is a criminal offense and should be reported immediately.

In the first instance, always contact your local police, then report to any of the following:

Report abuse to CEOP:

visit: www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-report/

Report indecent or illegal images to the Internet Watch Foundation:

visit: www.iwf.org.uk/report

Report abuse to the Virtual Global Taskforce:

visit: www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com/report-abuse/