



Cybercrimes:

How Maryland Law Can Protect You (Advocate)

Online tools are an easy and powerful way for abusers to manipulate and control their partner.

Introduction (00:44 – 01:38)

- Watch the introduction together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Review with the victim that abusers can use the internet, email, social media, messenger and other apps as tools for stalking, harassment, sextortion, and manipulation.
 - Remind them that the persistent pattern of the abuser's threatening actions over time can be a crime.
 - Ask them if they have any questions.

What Are Cyberstalking and Online Harassment (01:38 – 03:10)

- Watch *What Are Cyberstalking and Online Harassment* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Ask the victim if they understand the definitions of cyberstalking and online harassment.
 - Review the definitions of stalking together.
 - Review what cyberstalking is.
 - Ask them if they understand what online harassment is.
 - Remind the victim that to prevent harassment, they, or someone acting on their behalf, must tell the abuser to stop contacting them.
 - Ask them if they have any questions.
- If they ask for resources, you can direct them to the following:
 - Internet Harassment: <https://www.enlawyers.com/internet-harassment/>

Sextortion and Revenge Porn (03:10 – 04:18)

- Watch *Sextortion and Revenge Porn* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Review with the victim what threats can look like.
 - Ask them if they understand the definition of sextortion.
 - Ask them if they understand the definition of revenge porn.
 - Ask them if they have any questions.

2201 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218 • **24 Hour Hotline:** 410-889-RUTH (7884)

Administrative Office: 410-889-0840 • **Linea en Español:** 410-889-7889 Oprima 8

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Documenting Abusive Behavior (04:18 – 05:04)

- Watch *Documenting Abusive Behavior* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Explain to the victim that it is important to preserve all communications.
 - Review how they can preserve communications.
 - Remind them to keep a log of their abuser's communication and any efforts they make to end communication with the abuser.
 - Ask them if they have any questions.

Reporting Abusive Behavior (05:04 – 06:07)

- Watch *Reporting Abusive Behavior* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Ask them if they know how to report abusive behavior to the police.
 - Ask them if they would like to apply for a protective order.
 - Ask them if they have a safety plan. If not, help them create a safety plan. If so, review their safety plan with them.
 - Ask them if they have any questions.
- If they ask for resources, you can direct them to the following:
 - Victim Services: <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/VictimServ/default.aspx>
 - Creating a Safety Plan: <https://www.peoples-law.org/creating-safety-plan>



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Online Resources

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House of Ruth Maryland Hotline: 410-889-RUTH (7884) | www.hruth.org
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 | www.thehotline.org