



Inappropriate Content

Responding to Inappropriate Content

Inappropriate content includes harmful, disturbing, or illegal material encountered online that can cause emotional distress, encourage dangerous behavior, or place people, especially minors, at risk.

This may include:

- Hate speech or extremist content
- Harassment or violent threats
- Sexual content involving minors (CSAM)
- Non-consensual sexual images
- Graphic violence or self-harm content
- Dangerous social media “challenges”
- Content encouraging illegal or harmful behavior

Some content is illegal to possess or share. If someone may hurt themselves or cannot stay safe, call or text 988. Call 911 for immediate danger or violence.

Inappropriate Content – Do This First

Stop Engagement Immediately

- Do not comment, like, share, or forward
- Do not click further links
- Do not attempt to confront the poster

Engagement increases visibility and can place you at risk.

Preserve Evidence (Carefully)

Before reporting or exiting the platform:

- Preserve the URL, username, platform, and context without downloading, resharing, or repeatedly viewing illegal content.
 - The content
 - Usernames or profiles
 - URLs
 - Platform name
- Record:
 - Date and time
 - How you encountered the content
 - Any calls to action or threats

Do not download, store, or reshare illegal content beyond what is necessary for reporting.





Assess Immediate Risk

Treat the situation as urgent if the content:

- Encourages violence, self-harm, or suicide
- Targets specific individuals or groups
- Involves minors in sexual or exploitative situations
- Promotes dangerous challenges or stunts

If someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

Report the Content

Report to the Platform or Authorities Based on Risk

- Most platforms prohibit harmful content.
- Use built-in reporting tools for:
 - Hate or harassment
 - Violence or threats
 - Sexual exploitation
 - Dangerous activities
- Select the most serious applicable category
- Save confirmation or report numbers

If Minors Are Involved (If Minors Are Involved - Report Immediately)

If content includes sexual images or exploitation of minors:

- Do not share
- Do not investigate further
- Report immediately to National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)
 - CyberTipline: <https://report.cybertip.org>
 - Phone: 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

This applies even if the content appears to be “jokes,” “memes,” or “challenges.”

- National Reporting (Other Serious Content)
 - FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)
 - <https://www.ic3.gov>
 - (For threats, extremism, coordinated harassment, or illegal activity)
- Ohio Resources
 - Ohio Attorney General – Cybercrime & Victim Assistance
 - <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov>
 - Hotline: 800-282-0515
 - Ohio law addresses electronic harassment, exploitation, and threats.
- Geauga County
 - Geauga County Sheriff's Office
 - <https://www.geaugasheriff.org>
 - Local police non-emergency line for documentation





- Call 911 for imminent danger

If a Child Has Seen Inappropriate Content

Reassure First

- Stay calm and supportive
- Emphasize they are not in trouble
- Thank them for telling you
- Children may feel scared, confused, or ashamed.

Do Not Interrogate

- Avoid pressing for details
- Preserve evidence quietly
- Follow reporting guidance above

Secure and Support

- Adjust privacy and safety settings
- Monitor for follow-up contact or targeting
- Consider professional support if distress continues

Emotional & Crisis Support

Exposure to harmful content can cause anxiety, fear, anger, or intrusive thoughts.

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
- If you may hurt yourself or feel unable to stay safe, call or text 988.

Ask for support even if you “only saw something.”

Recovery – Ongoing Safety

- Continue reporting repeat content
- Block accounts or keywords where possible
- Revisit privacy and content controls
- Talk openly about what to do next time

How to Reduce Harm from Inappropriate Content

- You are never obligated to keep viewing disturbing content
- Reporting is protective, not tattling
- Silence and documentation are safer than engagement
- Ask for help early, especially for minors

