

# Image-Based Sexual Abuse

**(2.0 Hours)**

“Revenge pornography” is the distribution of sexually explicit images or video of individuals without their permission. The possession of the material may be used by the perpetrators to blackmail the subjects into performing other sex acts, to coerce them into continuing the relationship, to punish them for ending the relationship, or to silence them.

The practice has also been described as a form of psychological abuse and domestic violence, as well as a form of sexual abuse.

“Revenge porn” generally refers to the uploading of sexually explicit material to humiliate and intimidate the person, who has broken off a relationship. The term is also often misused to describe non 'revenge' scenarios, including nonconsensual pornography distributed by hackers or by individuals seeking profit or notoriety. The term "revenge porn" should not be used, and instead that it should be referred to as "image-based sexual abuse.”

The investigation and prosecution of this type of crime can be difficult and complicated by miss handling of the issues and understanding the victim. Judging and holding the victim at fault can cloud the issues and severely tarnish the investigation.

## **Learning Objectives**

- Defining “Image-based sexual abuse.”
- How to approach the investigation and prosecution.
- What evidence does the investigation need to obtain.
- How to handle the victim.
- The motives of this type of crime.
- Interview vs. Interrogation.

## **This Presentation’s History**

**April 15, 2015 – End Violence Against Women International**, “Investigating Difficult Sexual Assault Cases” “Contesting the “He said, She said” defense – **New Orleans**

**April 22, 2015 – West Virginia State’s Attorney’s Office**, 15<sup>Th</sup> Annual West Virginia Sexual Assault & Stalking Symposium, “Investigating Difficult Sexual Assault Cases” and “False Reporting” - **West Virginia**

**June 2016** – Live Violence Free – “Sexual Assault Investigations” & “False Reports” one-day training for local law enforcement and Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault advocates.  
**South Lake Tahoe County**

**April 5, 2018** – **End Violence Against Women International**, “Investigating Difficult Sexual Assault Cases” “Contesting the “He said, She said Defense.” – **Chicago**

**November 5, 2018** – **Delaware Law Enforcement Training Conference**, “Investigating Sexual Assault by Intoxication Cases” “Why Doesn’t She Leave” “Effectively Communicating with Difficult Victims” – **Delaware**

**June 19, 2019** – **Northeast South Dakota Conference**, Brown County State’s Attorney’s Office, “Investigating Sexual Assault by Intoxication Cases” “Effective Communication with Difficult Victims” – **Aberdeen, South Dakota**

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