



COCO'S

LAW

THE HARASSMENT,
HARMFUL COMMUNICATIONS
& RELATED OFFENCES
ACT 2020



In **February 2021** the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act was commenced, known as Coco's Law.



Coco's Law creates two new offences which criminalise the non-consensual distribution of intimate images:



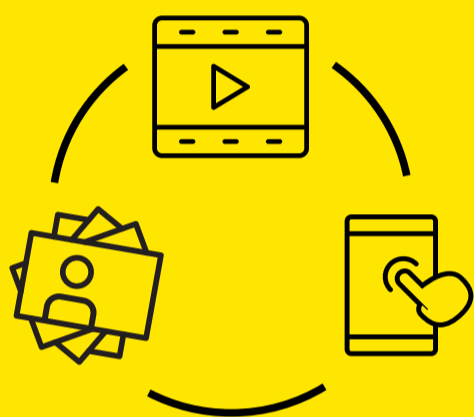
It is an offence to distribute or publish intimate images of a person, without consent and with intent to cause harm. Penalties include an unlimited fine and/or **7 years imprisonment**.



It is an offence to take, distribute or publish intimate images of a person without consent even if there is no specific intent to cause harm. Penalties include a maximum fine of €5,000 and/or **12 months' imprisonment**.



Importantly, this applies even if the person initially gave consent for the picture to be taken, but they were later shared with other people without their consent.



This law is in addition to existing legislation which makes it illegal to send, receive or share any **sexually explicit images, video or text** of someone under 18 years of age.

A child under 17 years of age can only be charged with an offence under this particular Act with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.



As an organisation your policies and procedures may be impacted by this important legislation and need to be updated accordingly.

Check out further supports & information

Check out further support and information on the **NYCI website**

NYCI RESOURCES

- **Let's Talk about Sexting:** A Toolkit to Assist Youth Workers Start a Conversation with Young People on the topic of Sexting
- **Let's Talk about Consent:** A Guide for Young People Exploring the Topic of Consent
- **Let's Talk about Consent:** A Guide for Youth Workers Exploring the Topic of Consent with Young People
- **Working Safely in a Youth Club:** Guidance for youth leaders on how to create a safe environment

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