

CYBER FLASHING

What is Cyber Flashing?

'Cyberflashing' is where somebody digitally sends sexual images or pornography to an unsuspecting person.

Due to the nature of channels used to send these images, the victim will not know they have been cyberflashed until they have actively opened the notification or gone into the app.

What can happen if someone cyberflashes me or someone I know?

Under laws introduced in the Online Safety Bill, sending non-consensual intimate images has become a criminal offence, which could see a perpetrator spending as long as two years behind bars. It brings the punishment in line with flashing in person, which can also carry a two-year prison sentence. In the first case of its kind, **a man has been jailed for sending a non-consensual image of his genitals to a woman and a teenage girl.**

It can be very difficult to speak up about these things and you or they may feel embarrassed. You/they have done nothing wrong and speaking out is always best!

Assess the situation and report to the Police (101) you may wish to report within in an organisation depending on where it happened. For example, in work, at a public event such as a football game or concert. If it happens within a school setting always inform the school.

How does it happen?

Air Drop is a file and image sharing app, bespoke for Apple devices, which enables users to drop content for nearby devices to accept or reject.

Cyberflashing most commonly occurs using Apple Air Drop, as strangers can send images to a victim's phone without having their details saved.

Cyberflashing can also occur through file sharing apps and social media, especially if the perpetrator has the victim's details.

Check your phone/child's Air Drop settings

Cyberflashing occurs through social media and file sharing apps when privacy and safety features have not been enabled.

Look through your apps/ child's apps with them and set privacy settings to "friends only"; be selective about who can follow them, or they can follow.

An iPhone has Air Drop settings with them (Settings > General > Air Drop) The default is set to "Everyone", meaning anyone nearby can send unsolicited photos straight to a phone. We recommend switching to "Contacts Only" so that only friends can send photos, or even "Receiving Off"

Seek help from the professionals

Provided by the UK Safer Internet Centre and operated by **SWGFL, Report Harmful Content** is a national reporting centre that has been designed to assist anyone in reporting harmful content online, as well as offering guidance and mediatory support to victims.

The Mix is a charity which provides free, confidential support for young people under 25 via online, social and mobile.

