

Communicating with Law Enforcement

Unless there is an immediate threat to safety that necessitates calling your emergency report line, it is best to report deepfake crimes in person at your local police station. *If you call the emergency report line, you will be making an initial report to a response officer that may or may not have the training and experience to properly document and initiate the investigation into your case.*

What to Do

1. Collect all of your evidence using our evidence log template. Save your evidence log and all screenshots on a secure drive.
2. Go to your local police agency and request to speak with a Detective. If the crime requires a prolonged, in-depth investigation, a detective will take over after the patrol officer's initial response. You speak to them to provide detailed statements, look at photo lineups, or share granular evidence that could not be handled during the chaotic first moments of an incident.
3. Make it known immediately that you are reporting a matter of sexual abuse, **if the images are sexual in nature**. *Most agencies have a defined process to receive reports of sexual abuse that is separate from other criminal complaint reporting.*
4. Request information on seeking a protective order.
5. Request contact information for assigned investigator(s)
6. Follow up with investigators regularly for updates on our case

What to Know

You have the right to be assertive and ask questions. Law enforcement exists to protect and serve the community. It is their job to investigate your complaint to the best of their ability with respect and transparency.

Many agencies lack the resources and expertise to investigate cybercrimes. This is especially true if the platform is hosted outside of the country. Law enforcement agencies regularly consult with other local, state and federal agencies who may be better equipped to investigate certain cases. You can ask the assigned investigator if they have consulted with any other agencies.

If you feel like you aren't being heard, ask to speak to a supervisor. If you feel your complaint is not being investigated adequately, contact your District Attorney or Prosecuting Attorney's office.

Be proactive and stay proactive.