



## **WHY YOUR STATE SHOULD ADOPT THE UNIFORM CIVIL REMEDIES FOR UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF INTIMATE IMAGES ACT**

The Uniform Civil Remedies for Unauthorized Disclosure of Intimate Images Act addresses an increasingly common form of abuse that can cause immediate and, in many cases, irreversible harm: the disclosure of private images of nudity or sexual conduct without consent. Unauthorized disclosures frequently cause emotional distress as well as depression, anxiety, difficulty maintaining intimate relationships, or post-traumatic stress disorder. Some victims have been stalked, harassed, threatened with sexual assault, terminated from employment, or expelled from their schools. Below are some of the features of this uniform act:

- ***The Act creates a civil cause of action.*** Most states that have addressed this issue only have a criminal statute. The uniform act creates a civil cause of action for the unauthorized disclosure of private, intimate images.
- ***The Act protects victims' identities.*** The fear of further notoriety or abuse deters many victims from pursuing legal remedies. Section 5 of the Act mitigates this fear by providing clear procedures allowing victims to use pseudonyms.
- ***The Act provides various remedies.*** Some of the potential remedies outlined in the Act include actual damages, statutory damages, punitive damages, and disgorgement of profits. The court may also grant the victim attorney's fees and other relief, such as injunctive relief.
- ***The Act contains clear exceptions.*** Section 4 of the Act provides limited exceptions for certain disclosures, including those made during legal proceedings, medical treatment, or investigations of misconduct. There is also an exception for disclosures relating to matters of public concern or public interest.
- ***The Act recognizes the federal protection of interactive computer service providers.*** Section 8 of the Act recognizes the federal protection of interactive computer service providers found in the Federal Communications Decency Act.

For further information about this uniform act, please contact Legislative Program Director Kaitlin Wolff at (312) 450-6615 or [kwolff@uniformlaws.org](mailto:kwolff@uniformlaws.org).