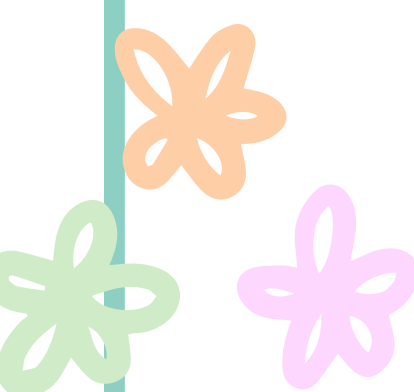




AI & Online Harassment

Q1: When does online harassment qualify as a crime?

A: Online harassment becomes a crime when it crosses into threats, stalking, extortion, or defamation. Examples include:

- Threatening to hurt someone (cyberstalking).
- Repeatedly contacting someone with the intent to cause fear.
- Sharing private/intimate images without consent (revenge porn).
- Impersonating someone to commit fraud or cause reputational harm.
- 📖 In California, cyber harassment may fall under Penal Code §653.2 (indirect electronic harassment), and “revenge porn” under Penal Code §647(j)(4).

Q3: What if AI is used to create a fake video of me (deepfake)?

A:

- Deepfake videos made to harm your reputation or exploit you may be illegal under state harassment and defamation laws.
- If sexual in nature, it may fall under “non-consensual pornography” laws even if AI-generated.
- Report to the platform and consider filing a complaint with local law enforcement if reputational or emotional harm is caused.

Q4: What if AI is used to generate my voice for a scam call?

A:

- Using your voice to commit fraud (like calling relatives asking for money) is a form of identity theft and fraud.
- Save evidence of the call (number, recording if possible).
- Report to the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) and local police.

Q5: What if I’m targeted by an online romance scam?

A:

- Romance scams are common online. If someone builds a fake relationship and then asks for money, this is fraud.
- Stop all contact immediately.
- Report to the FTC and the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3.gov).
- If you already sent money, contact your bank to see if it can be reversed.

Q8: What can I do to protect myself from AI-based harassment?

A:

- Keep accounts private where possible.
- Use strong passwords and 2-factor authentication.
- Google yourself regularly to see if your name, photos, or voice are being misused.
- Know where to report: social platforms, FTC, IC3, and local law enforcement.

