

STATE OF NEW YORK

2056

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 22, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. BRAUNSTEIN, GUNTHER, WEPRIN, PAULIN -- read once
and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, the criminal procedure law, the family
court act and the civil rights law, in relation to establishing the
crime of unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 245.15 to
2 read as follows:

3 § 245.15 Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image.

4 1. A person is guilty of unlawful dissemination or publication of an
5 intimate image when:

6 (a) with intent to cause material harm to the emotional, financial or
7 physical welfare of another person, he or she intentionally disseminates
8 or publishes a still or video image of such other person, who is iden-
9 tifiable from the still or video image itself or from information
10 displayed in connection with the still or video image, without such
11 other person's consent, which depicts:

12 (i) an unclothed or exposed intimate part of such other person; or

13 (ii) such other person engaging in sexual conduct as defined in subdi-
14 vision ten of section 130.00 of this chapter with another person; and

15 (b) such still or video image was taken under circumstances when the
16 person depicted had a reasonable expectation of privacy and the actor
17 knew or reasonably should have known the person depicted intended for
18 the still or video image to remain private indefinitely, regardless of
19 whether the actor was present when the still or video image was taken.

20 2. For purposes of this section "intimate part" means the naked geni-
21 tals, public area, anus or female nipple of the person.

22 2-a. For purposes of this section "disseminate" and "publish" shall
23 have the same meaning as defined in section 250.40 of this title.

24 3. This section shall not apply to the following:

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD06276-02-9

1 (a) the reporting of unlawful conduct;
2 (b) dissemination or publication of an intimate image made during
3 lawful and common practices of law enforcement, legal proceedings or
4 medical treatment;
5 (c) images involving voluntary exposure in a commercial setting;
6 (d) dissemination or publication of an intimate image made for a
7 legitimate public purpose;
8 (e) providers of an interactive computer service for images provided
9 by another person. For purposes of this subdivision, "interactive
10 computer service" shall mean: any information service, system or access
11 software provider that provides or enables computer access by multiple
12 users to a computer server, including specifically a service or system
13 that provides access to the internet and such systems operated or
14 services offered by libraries or educational institutions.
15 Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image is a class
16 A misdemeanor.

17 § 2. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 530.11 of the
18 criminal procedure law, as amended by section 4 of part NN of chapter 55
19 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

20 The family court and the criminal courts shall have concurrent juris-
21 diction over any proceeding concerning acts which would constitute
22 disorderly conduct, unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate
23 image, harassment in the first degree, harassment in the second degree,
24 aggravated harassment in the second degree, sexual misconduct, forcible
25 touching, sexual abuse in the third degree, sexual abuse in the second
26 degree as set forth in subdivision one of section 130.60 of the penal
27 law, stalking in the first degree, stalking in the second degree, stalk-
28 ing in the third degree, stalking in the fourth degree, criminal
29 mischief, menacing in the second degree, menacing in the third degree,
30 reckless endangerment, strangulation in the first degree, strangulation
31 in the second degree, criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circula-
32 tion, assault in the second degree, assault in the third degree, an
33 attempted assault, identity theft in the first degree, identity theft in
34 the second degree, identity theft in the third degree, grand larceny in
35 the fourth degree, grand larceny in the third degree, coercion in the
36 second degree or coercion in the third degree as set forth in subdivi-
37 sions one, two and three of section 135.60 of the penal law between
38 spouses or former spouses, or between parent and child or between
39 members of the same family or household except that if the respondent
40 would not be criminally responsible by reason of age pursuant to section
41 30.00 of the penal law, then the family court shall have exclusive
42 jurisdiction over such proceeding. Notwithstanding a complainant's
43 election to proceed in family court, the criminal court shall not be
44 divested of jurisdiction to hear a family offense proceeding pursuant to
45 this section. For purposes of this section, "disorderly conduct"
46 includes disorderly conduct not in a public place. For purposes of this
47 section, "members of the same family or household" with respect to a
48 proceeding in the criminal courts shall mean the following:

49 § 3. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 812 of the
50 family court act, as amended by section 5 of part NN of chapter 55 of
51 the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

52 The family court and the criminal courts shall have concurrent juris-
53 diction over any proceeding concerning acts which would constitute
54 disorderly conduct, unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate
55 image, harassment in the first degree, harassment in the second degree,
56 aggravated harassment in the second degree, sexual misconduct, forcible

1 touching, sexual abuse in the third degree, sexual abuse in the second
2 degree as set forth in subdivision one of section 130.60 of the penal
3 law, stalking in the first degree, stalking in the second degree, stalk-
4 ing in the third degree, stalking in the fourth degree, criminal
5 mischief, menacing in the second degree, menacing in the third degree,
6 reckless endangerment, criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circula-
7 tion, strangulation in the second degree, strangulation in the first
8 degree, assault in the second degree, assault in the third degree, an
9 attempted assault, identity theft in the first degree, identity theft in
10 the second degree, identity theft in the third degree, grand larceny in
11 the fourth degree, grand larceny in the third degree, coercion in the
12 second degree or coercion in the third degree as set forth in subdivi-
13 sions one, two and three of section 135.60 of the penal law between
14 spouses or former spouses, or between parent and child or between
15 members of the same family or household except that if the respondent
16 would not be criminally responsible by reason of age pursuant to section
17 30.00 of the penal law, then the family court shall have exclusive
18 jurisdiction over such proceeding. Notwithstanding a complainant's
19 election to proceed in family court, the criminal court shall not be
20 divested of jurisdiction to hear a family offense proceeding pursuant to
21 this section. In any proceeding pursuant to this article, a court shall
22 not deny an order of protection, or dismiss a petition, solely on the
23 basis that the acts or events alleged are not relatively contemporaneous
24 with the date of the petition, the conclusion of the fact-finding or the
25 conclusion of the dispositional hearing. For purposes of this article,
26 "disorderly conduct" includes disorderly conduct not in a public place.
27 For purposes of this article, "members of the same family or household"
28 shall mean the following:

29 § 4. The civil rights law is amended by adding a new section 52-b to
30 read as follows:

31 § 52-b. Private right of action for unlawful dissemination or publica-
32 tion of an intimate image. 1. Any person depicted in a still or video
33 image, regardless of whether or not the original still or video image
34 was consensually obtained, shall have a cause of action against an indi-
35 vidual who, for the purpose of harassing, annoying or alarming such
36 person, disseminated or published, or threatened to disseminate or
37 publish, such still or video image, where such image:

38 a. was taken when such person had a reasonable expectation of privacy;
39 and

40 b. depicts (i) an unclothed or exposed intimate part of such person;
41 or (ii) such person engaging in sexual conduct, as defined in subdivi-
42 sion ten of section 130.00 of the penal law, with another person; and

43 c. was disseminated or published, or threatened to be disseminated or
44 published, without the consent of such person.

45 2. In any action commenced pursuant to subdivision one of this
46 section, the finder of fact, in its discretion, may award injunctive
47 relief, punitive damages, compensatory damages and reasonable court
48 costs and attorney's fees.

49 3. This section shall not apply to the following:

50 a. the reporting of unlawful conduct;

51 b. dissemination or publication of an intimate still or video image
52 made during lawful and common practices of law enforcement, legal
53 proceedings or medical treatment;

54 c. images involving voluntary exposure in a commercial setting;

55 d. dissemination or publication of an intimate still or video image
56 made for a legitimate public purpose; or

1 e. providers of an interactive computer service for images provided by
2 another person. For purposes of this paragraph, "interactive computer
3 service" shall mean any information service, system or access software
4 provider that enables computer access by multiple users to that computer
5 server, including specifically, a service that provides access to the
6 internet and such systems operated or services offered by libraries or
7 educational institutions.

8 4. Any person depicted in a still or video image that depicts an
9 unclothed or exposed intimate part of such person, or such person engag-
10 ing in sexual conduct as defined in subdivision ten of section 130.00 of
11 the penal law with another person, which is disseminated or published
12 without the consent of such person and where such person had a reason-
13 able expectation of privacy, may maintain an action or special proceed-
14 ing for a court order to require any website that is subject to personal
15 jurisdiction under subdivision five of this section to permanently
16 remove such still or video image; any such court order granted pursuant
17 to this subdivision may direct removal only as to images that are
18 reasonably within such website's control.

19 5. a. Any website that hosts or transmits a still or video image,
20 viewable in this state, taken under circumstances where the person
21 depicted had a reasonable expectation of privacy, which depicts:

22 (i) an unclothed or exposed intimate part, as defined in section
23 245.15 of the penal law, of a resident of this state; or

24 (ii) a resident of this state engaging in sexual conduct as defined in
25 subdivision ten of section 130.00 of the penal law with another person;
26 and

27 b. Such still or video image is hosted or transmitted without the
28 consent of such resident of this state, shall be subject to personal
29 jurisdiction in a civil action in this state to the maximum extent
30 permitted under the United States constitution and federal law.

31 6. A cause of action or special proceeding under this section shall be
32 commenced the later of either:

33 a. three years after the dissemination or publication of an image; or

34 b. one year from the date a person discovers, or reasonably should
35 have discovered, the dissemination or publication of such image.

36 7. Nothing herein shall be read to require a prior criminal complaint,
37 prosecution or conviction to establish the elements of the cause of
38 action provided for by this section.

39 8. The provisions of this section are in addition to, but shall not
40 supersede, any other rights or remedies available in law or equity.

41 9. If any provision of this section or its application to any person
42 or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other
43 provisions or applications of this section which can be given effect
44 without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the
45 provisions of this section are severable.

46 § 5. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
47 have become a law.