

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5981

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 25, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. BRAUNSTEIN, GUNTHER, WEPRIN, PAULIN, OTIS,  
BUTTENSCHON, M. L. MILLER -- 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 harm to the emotional, financial or physical  
7 welfare of another person, he or she intentionally disseminates or  
8 publishes a still or video image of such other person, who is identifi-  
9 able from the still or video image itself or from information displayed  
10 in connection with the still or video image, without such other person's  
11 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 that the image would remain  
17 private and the actor knew or reasonably should have known the person  
18 depicted intended for the still or video image to remain private,  
19 regardless of whether the actor was present when the still or video  
20 image was taken.

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

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

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1 2-a. For purposes of this section "disseminate" and "publish" shall  
2 have the same meaning as defined in section 250.40 of this title.

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

4 (a) the reporting of unlawful conduct;

5 (b) dissemination or publication of an intimate image made during  
6 lawful and common practices of law enforcement, legal proceedings or  
7 medical treatment;

8 (c) images involving voluntary exposure in a public or commercial  
9 setting; or

10 (d) dissemination or publication of an intimate image made for a  
11 legitimate public purpose.

12 4. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit, or to enlarge,  
13 the protections that 47 U.S.C § 230 confers on an interactive computer  
14 service for content provided by another information content provider, as  
15 such terms are defined in 47 U.S.C. § 230.

16 Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image is a class  
17 A misdemeanor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 a. was taken when such person had a reasonable expectation that the  
40 image would remain private; and

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

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

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

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

51 a. the reporting of unlawful conduct;

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

55 c. images involving voluntary exposure in a public or commercial  
56 setting; or

1 d. dissemination or publication of an intimate still or video image  
2 made for a legitimate public purpose.

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

14 5. a. Any website that hosts or transmits a still or video image,  
15 viewable in this state, taken under circumstances where the person  
16 depicted had a reasonable expectation that the image would remain  
17 private, which depicts:

18 (i) an unclothed or exposed intimate part, as defined in section  
19 245.15 of the penal law, of a resident of this state; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

42 10. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit, or to  
43 enlarge, the protections that 47 U.S.C § 230 confers on an interactive  
44 computer service for content provided by another information content  
45 provider, as such terms are defined in 47 U.S.C. § 230.

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