

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN TEEN DATING VIOLENCE: GLOSSARY

Cloud – a server owned by a company (like Amazon™, Apple™, Google™, or Snapchat™) that relieves personal computers/smartphones/online applications from having to store huge amounts of data. Clouds are online databases that can be accessed from anywhere, and store electronic information automatically. Some clouds are public, and some have restricted access.

Facebook™ – the most popular social media website. Each user has a profile that can be made public or private (only visible to known users or “friends”). Users can share photos and personal information about themselves on their profile page, or “wall.” Users can send private messages to one another, comment publicly, “like” posts and photos, or alert others of their presence through “poking.” Sending a “poke” is a mere click that puts the pocker’s name on the recipient’s Facebook wall, but it can have great meaning when used as a reminder to the victim that her abuser is still thinking about her. “Poking” is a form of communication that can be restricted by a protective order.

Snapchat™ – a web application that allows users to take “snaps” (photos or short videos), add text and drawings, and send them to selected recipients. After a 1-10 second time limit, the “snap” can no longer be viewed. The app is popular for sending nude pictures, since the snaps are “deleted” after a few seconds. But a recipient can take a screenshot of the “snap,” saving it to the user’s phone. Additionally, third-party apps (SaveSnap™, SnapBox™, and SnapSpy™) allow recipients to save photos. Snapchat™ saves snaps to its cloud, even after they are “deleted” from the sender’s and recipient’s phones. Thus, snaps are never truly deleted.

Twitter™ – a microblogging service that allows users to post pictures or short messages (“tweets”) that must be 140 characters or less. Users can make their profile public or private. Users can send private messages to others that do not appear in the public “twitterverse.”

Instagram™ – an online mobile sharing service for photos and videos. Users create profiles containing pictures and videos taken on their smartphone. Users communicate on the platform via comments on photos. There is no limitation on who can set up an Instagram™ account, or how many accounts one individual can have, so an abuser could set up a dummy account consisting only of photos of his victim, and invite her friends and family to follow the account.

Kik™ – a free instant messaging application for mobile phones. Much like text messaging, users can send and receive an unlimited number of messages, photos, videos, links to web pages, and other content. Photos and videos sent within the app remain saved as part of the conversation between two users – media does not

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disappear the way it does with Snapchat™. What differentiates Kik™ from other forms of social media such as Snapchat™, Twitter™, or Instagram™ is its emphasis on anonymity; to register, the app requires a “real name” and email address, but no phone number or other form of identity verification. Users can search for contacts via username or “real name,” but users can also search for interest groups (e.g., “cooking,” “fashion,” “soccer”) and chat with any member of those groups. Since Kik™ is not tied to a specific telephone number, only a username and email address, teens without cell phones can still use Kik™ on internet-connected devices such as iPod Touches™ or tablet devices. This allows for greater anonymity and freedom from parental scrutiny, as parents cannot monitor data usage or track which phone numbers their teens have been frequently contacting.

YouTube™ – the world’s most popular video hosting site. Anyone can view videos posted on it, and users who create accounts can make and post videos that can be accessed publicly or privately for others to view.

MySpace™ – a social media blogging website used to communicate with other users and to share thoughts, information, and photos.

Tumblr™ – a short-form blogging and social media website. Users can elect to make their blogs public or private, and can post any type of multimedia content.

Flickr™ – a photo-sharing website. Individuals post their own photos, and researchers and bloggers post images for advertising purposes. Flickr™ has mobile apps that enable the website to be accessed easily from a smartphone.

Chatroom – a website that allows users to communicate and send messages electronically.

Tablet – a general-purpose computer contained in a touchscreen panel. It has all the features of a personal computer. The iPad™ falls under this category.

Screenshot – a captured image of the display screen of an electronic device. This enables the picture-taker to save images of text message conversations, snapchats, photos, and call logs for future reference. These images can be easily shared on other sites, like Facebook™ or Tumblr™.

Location-Tracking – a smartphone feature that allows satellites and GPS technology to track the location of the phone. This setting is often enabled automatically for apps that rely upon the user’s location.

Emojis/ Emoticons – Pictorial symbols meant to represent words or concepts that can accompany text, or completely replace text to express an idea. In addition to smiley

faces, emoji applications include numerous symbols including representations of guns, skulls, syringes, and pills, which can be used to threaten or intimidate.

Secondary Sexting – When the recipient of a sext forwards it to a third party without the consent of the original sender (who is usually the subject of the photo).

Revenge Porn – A form of sexual abuse involving the distribution of nude or sexually explicit images of an individual without their consent. It is often perpetrated by ex-boyfriends or ex-husbands in attempts to seek revenge or exert control. Also known as non-consensual pornography (NCP).

Periscope™ – A live video-streaming app. Users can film anything (a live event or something playing on a screen), connect to Twitter™ on the Periscope™ App, and let Twitter™ users view what they have posted.