SPARC

STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

The Use of Technology to Stalk

OVW Funding

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www.StalkingAwareness.org

*Practitioner guides

*Training modules

*Victim resources

*Webinars

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Technology-Facilitated Stalking

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

Technology does not cause stalking.

Stalkers cause stalking.

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Technology & In-Person Stalking

The majority of stalking victims experienced both in-person stalking and technology-facilitated stalking.

Messing, J., Bagwell-Gray, M., Brown, M.L., Kappas, A., & Durfee, A. (2020). Intersections of Stalking and Technology-Based Abuse: Emerging Definitions, Conceptualization, and Measurement. Journal of Family Violence 35(1): 693-704.

SURVEILLANCE

- Smart home devices
- Tracking software
- Tracking devices
- Monitoring online activity
- Accessing online accounts
- Cameras or audio/video recording devices

LIFE INVASION

- Unwanted contact online or through text messages, phone calls, or other platforms
- Impersonating victim
- Impersonating others to access the victim
- Hacking and/or controlling victim's accounts

INTERFERENCE

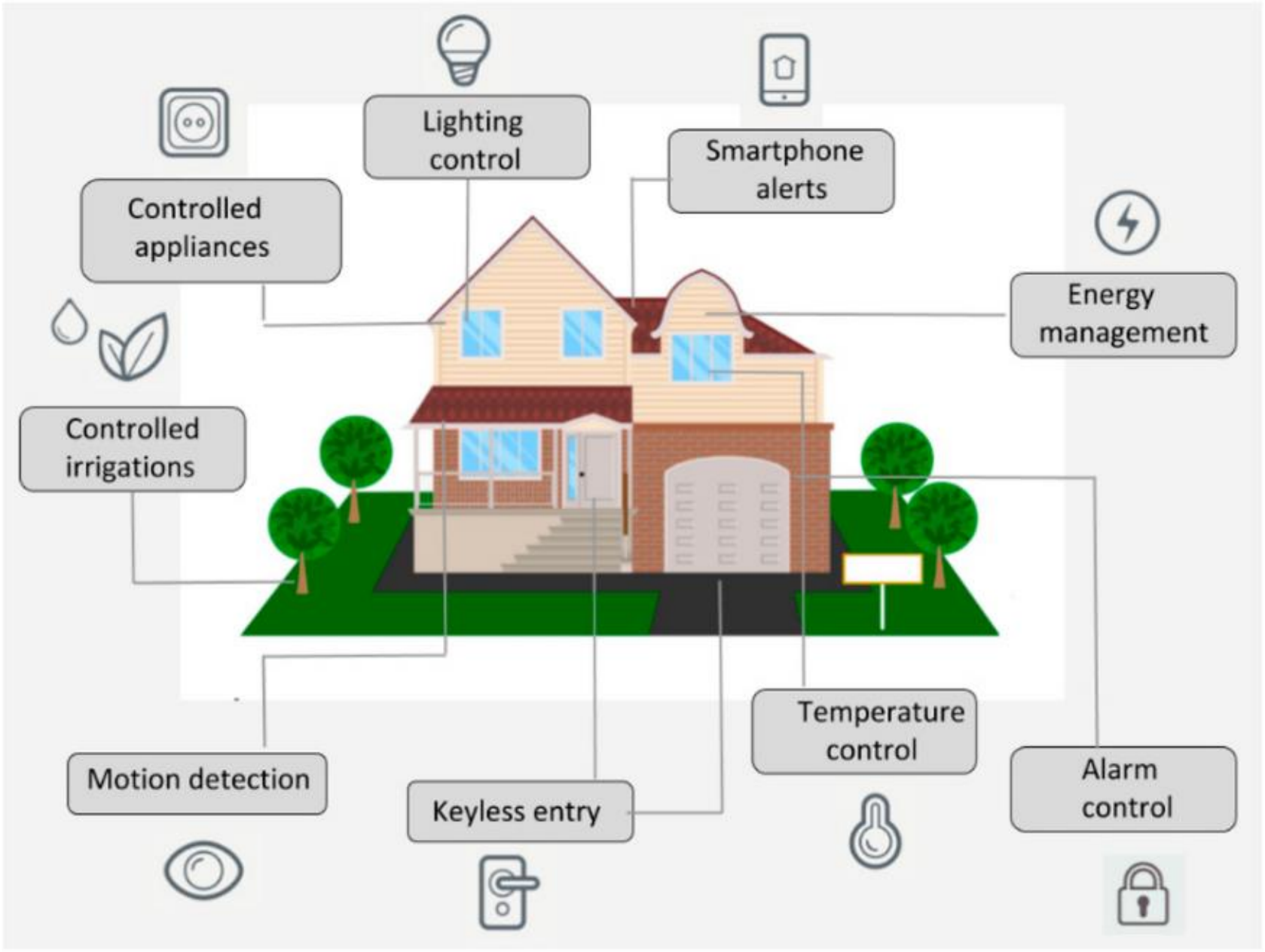
- Spreading rumors online
- Doxing
- Swatting
- Posing as victim and creating harm
- Posting private photos, videos, information online, real or fake
- Using technology to encourage others to harm the victim

INTIMIDATION

- Online threats
- Blackmail
- Sextortion
- Threats to release private info, photos, or videos (real or fake)
- Threats to interfere with property, employment, finances, accounts

COMMON TECHNOLOGY TACTICS EXPERIENCED BY STALKING VICTIMS

Truman, J.L., & Morgan, R.E. (2022). Stalking Victimization, 2019. Washington, DC: US DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report.


Lighting control
Smartphone alerts
Controlled appliances
Energy management
Controlled irrigations
Temperature control
Motion detection
Keyless entry
Alarm control

Tracking Location

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

How Do Stalkers Track Location?

Property Tags

Family Trackers

Life360

Access to and/or Shared Victim Accounts

Find My

UBER

lyft

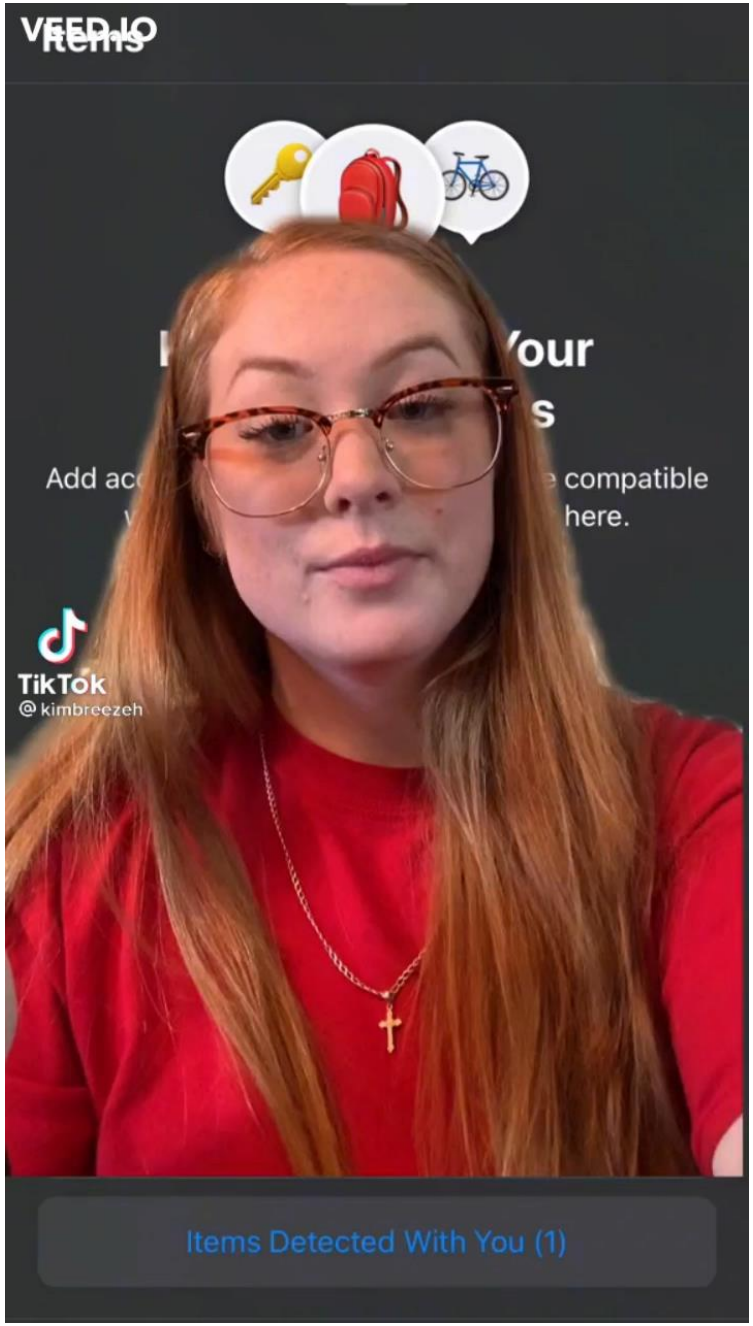
OpenTable

Hotels.com

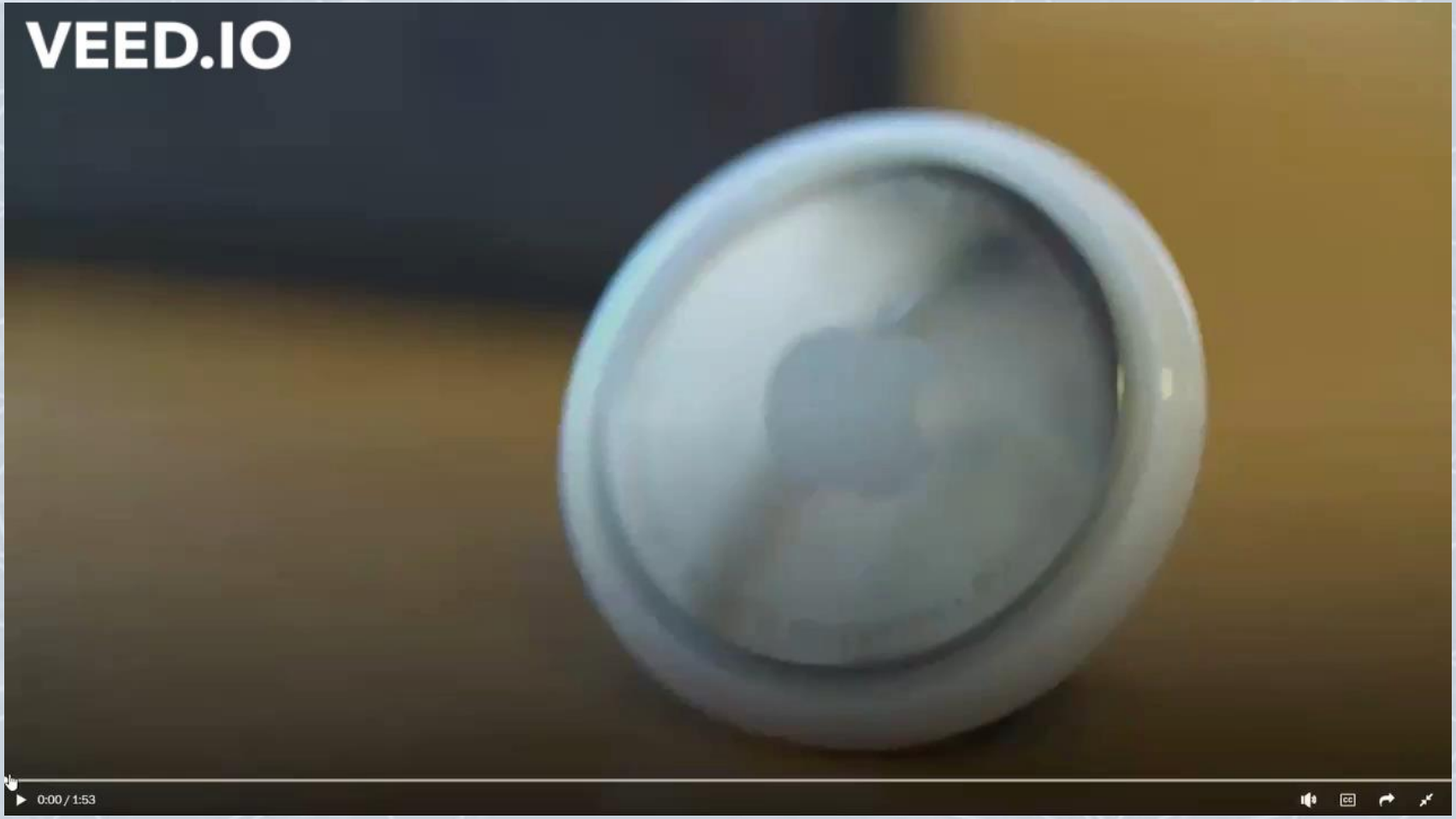
Social Media Maps/Check-ins

Installed Stalkerware

Proxy Stalking


VEED.IO
Items
Your
s
Add ac
compatible
here.
TikTok
@kimbreezeh
Items Detected With You (1)

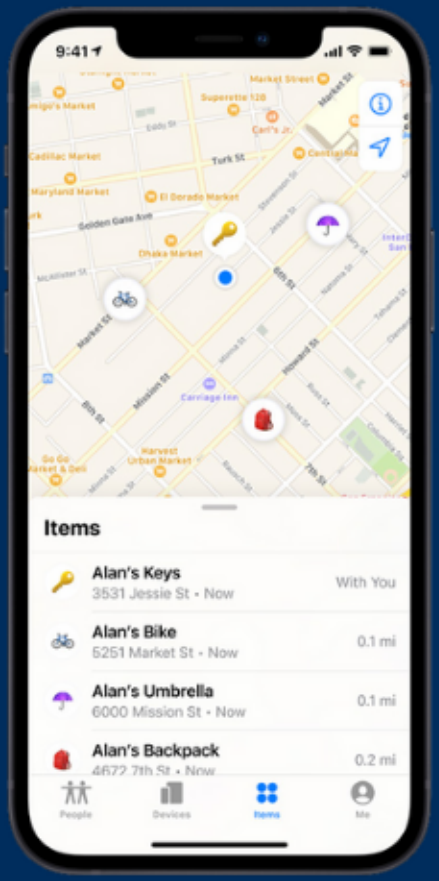
AirTags



Note: Notification time is now a few hours, NOT 3 days

Android now has an automatic AirTag tracker

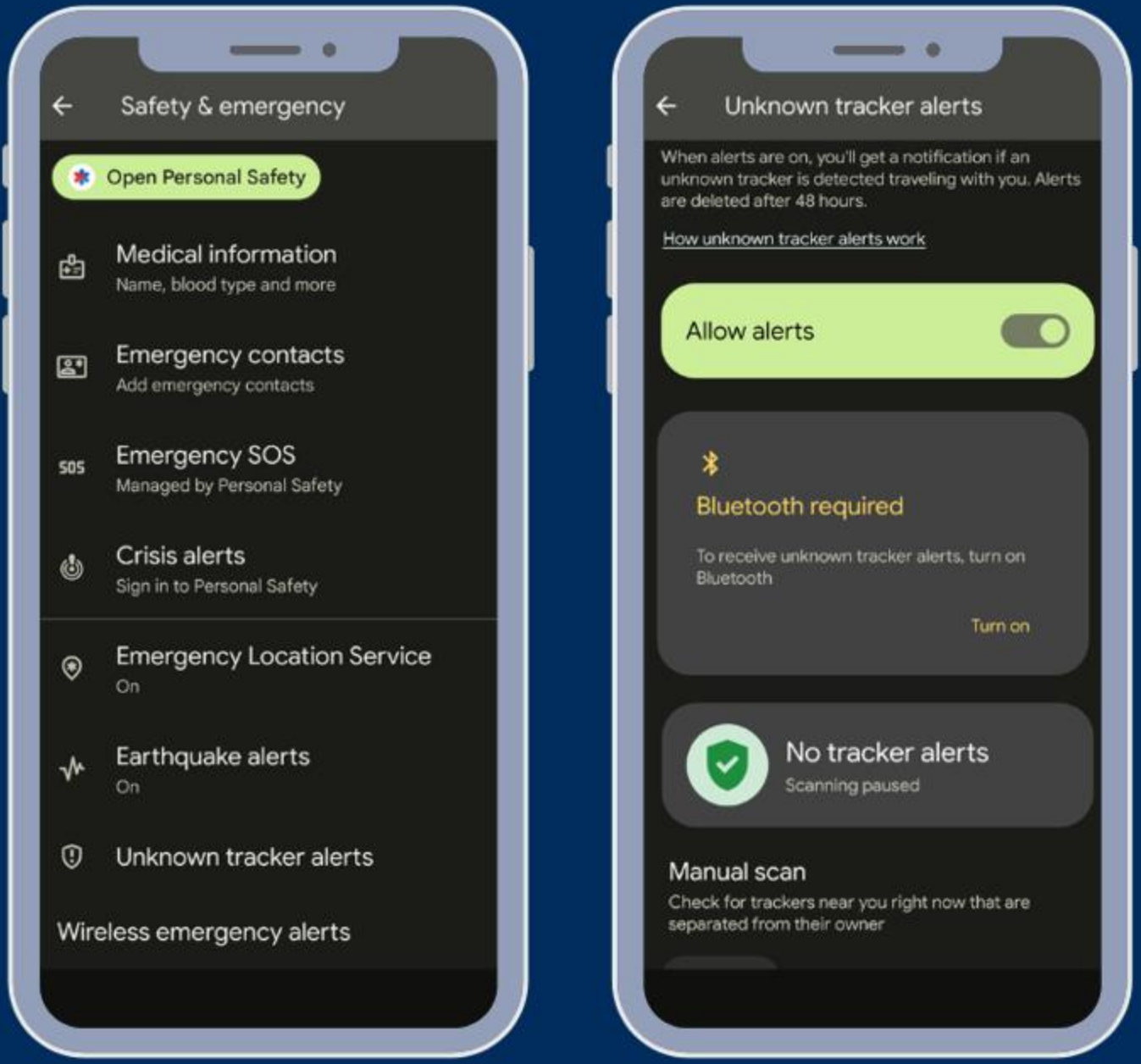
Understanding AirTags



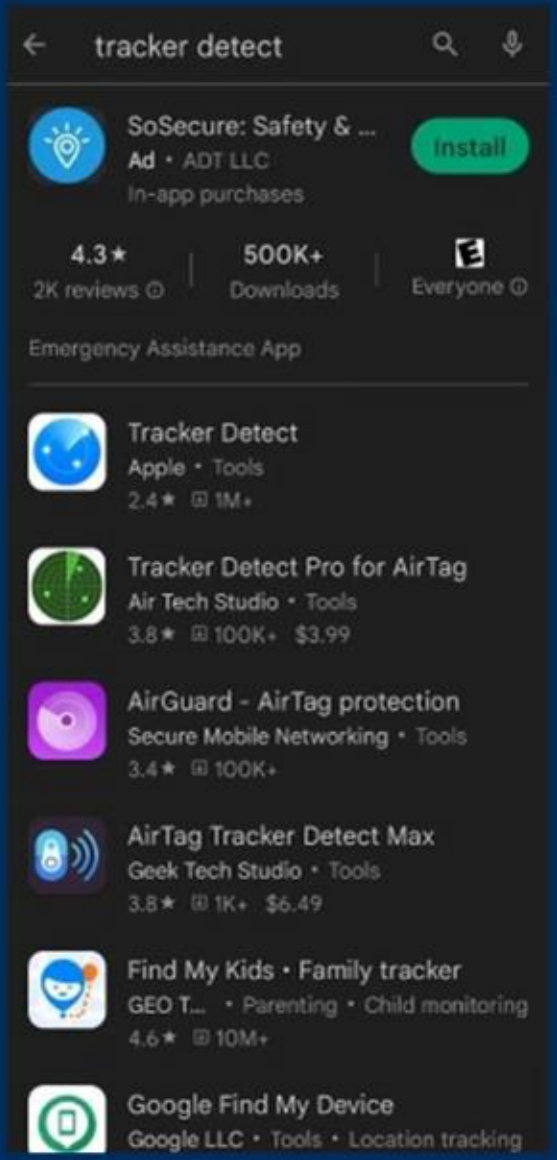
- Shows current location, not location history
- Frequency of the location update varies
  - Depends on other devices in range
- While Tile requires people to have downloaded the Tile app for the location tracking to "ping," AirTag "pings" off any Apple device within 800 feet

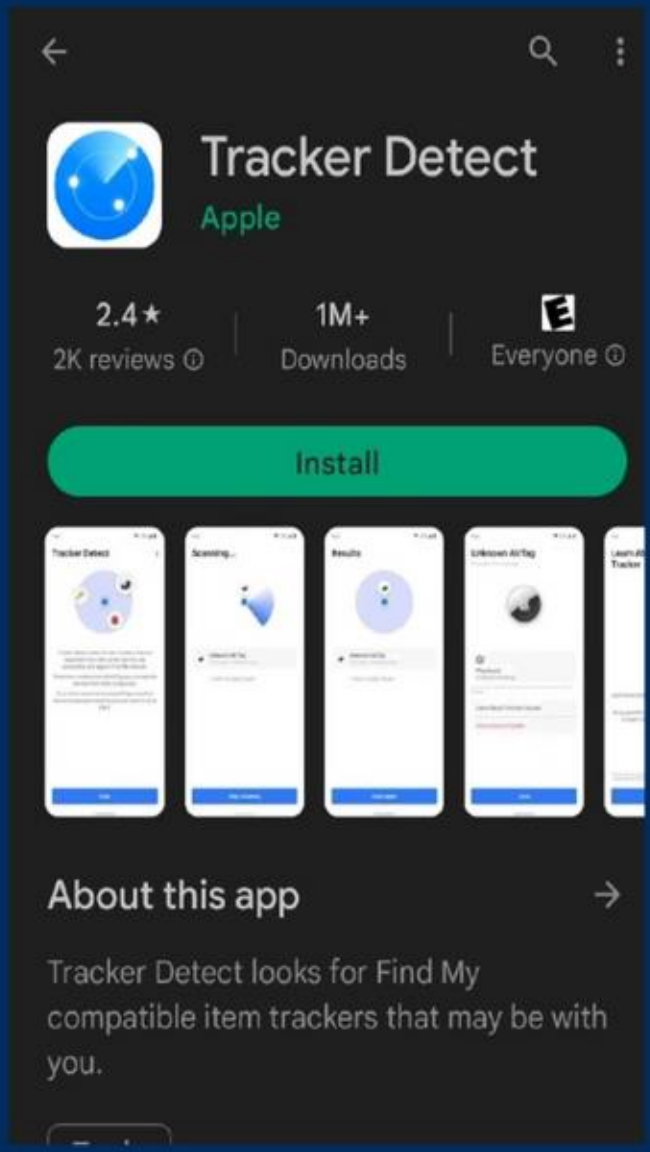
Notification Limitations

- Alerts are inconsistent and designed to catch when device is traveling with the victim
- Most users are notified when they return home, not while traveling
- If the offender is present and/or in close proximity to victim regularly, notification is unlikely

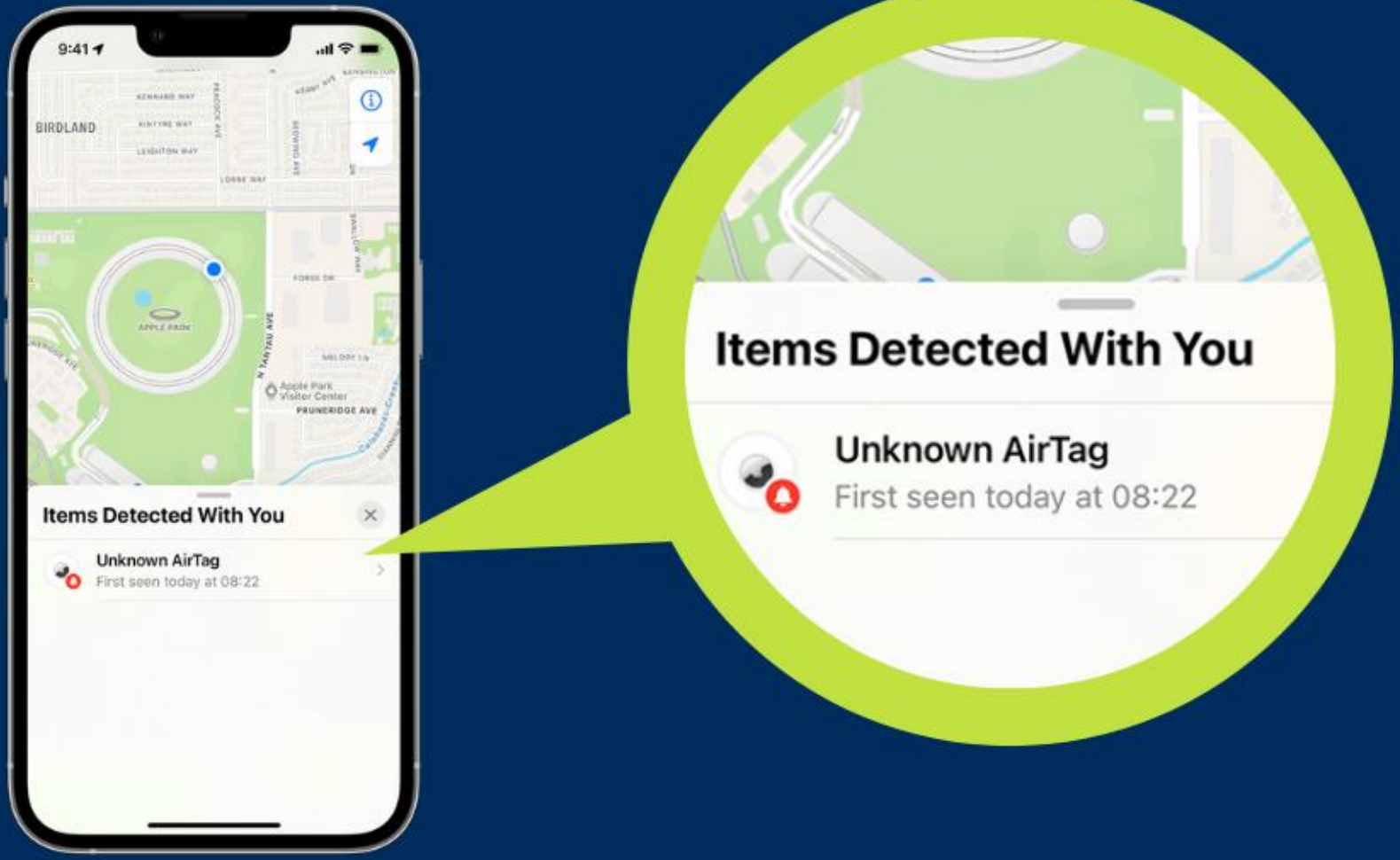

Safety & emergency
Open Personal Safety
Medical information
Name, blood type and more
Emergency contacts
Add emergency contacts
SOS
Emergency SOS
Managed by Personal Safety
Crisis alerts
Sign in to Personal Safety
Emergency Location Service
On
Earthquake alerts
On
Unknown tracker alerts
Wireless emergency alerts
Unknown tracker alerts
When alerts are on, you'll get a notification if an unknown tracker is detected traveling with you. Alerts are deleted after 48 hours.
How unknown tracker alerts work
Allow alerts
Bluetooth required
To receive unknown tracker alerts, turn on Bluetooth
Turn on
No tracker alerts
Scanning paused
Manual scan
Check for trackers near you right now that are separated from their owner

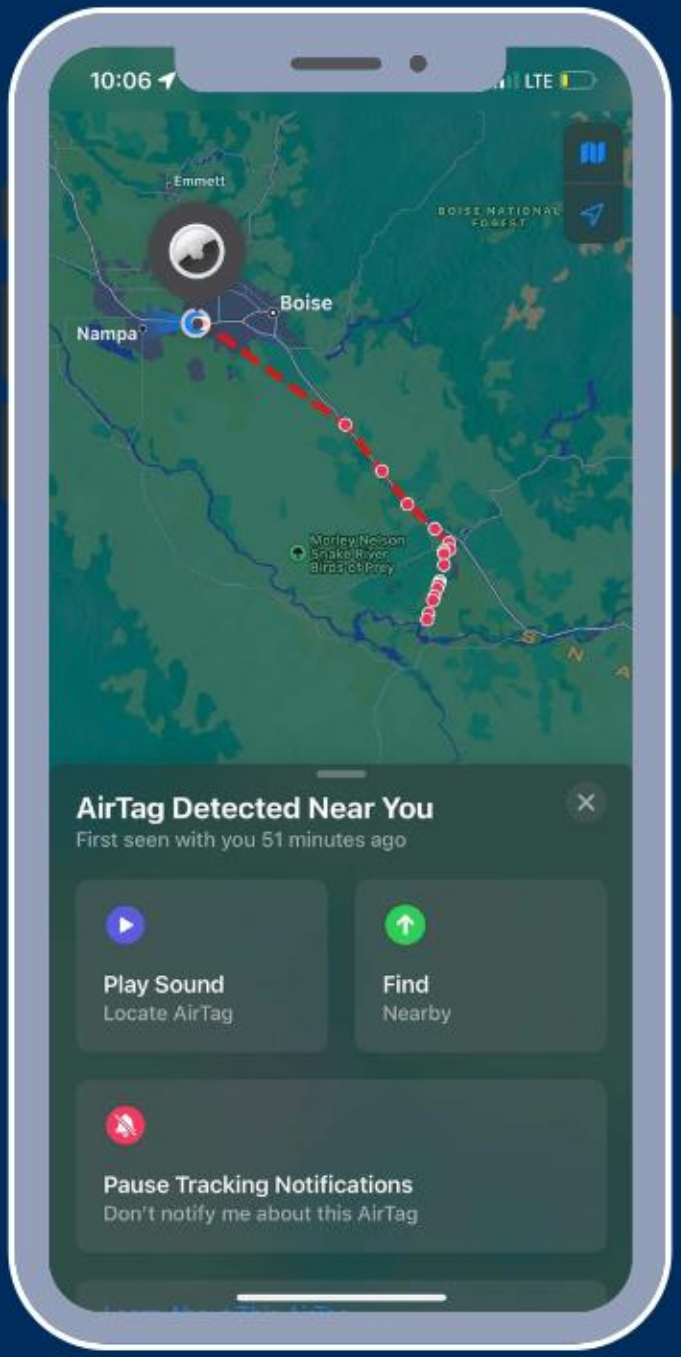
AirTag Alert: Android

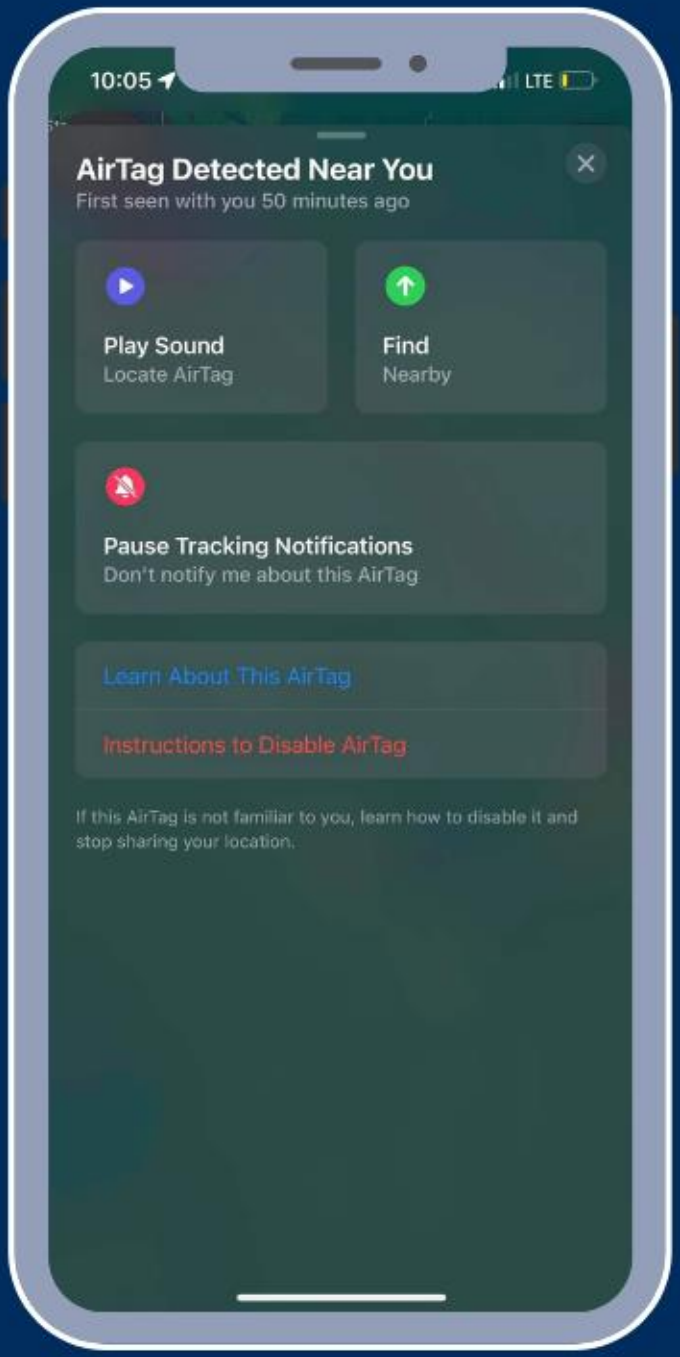




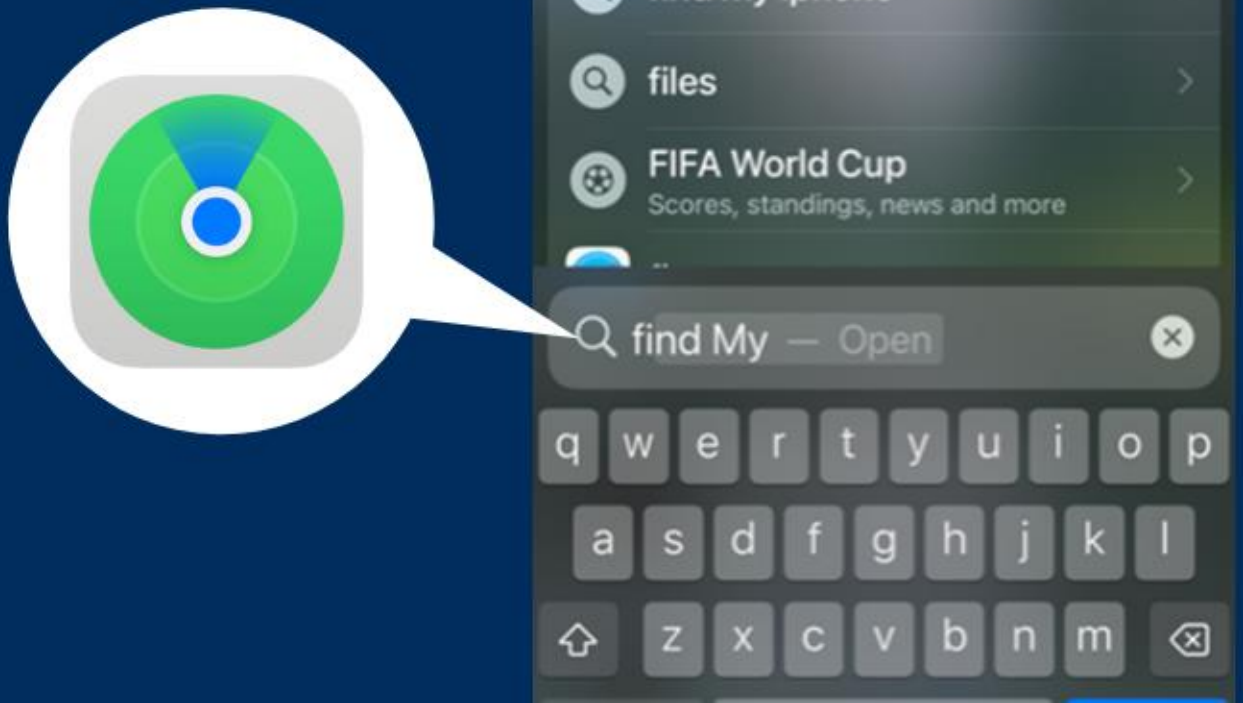
AirTag Alert: Apple



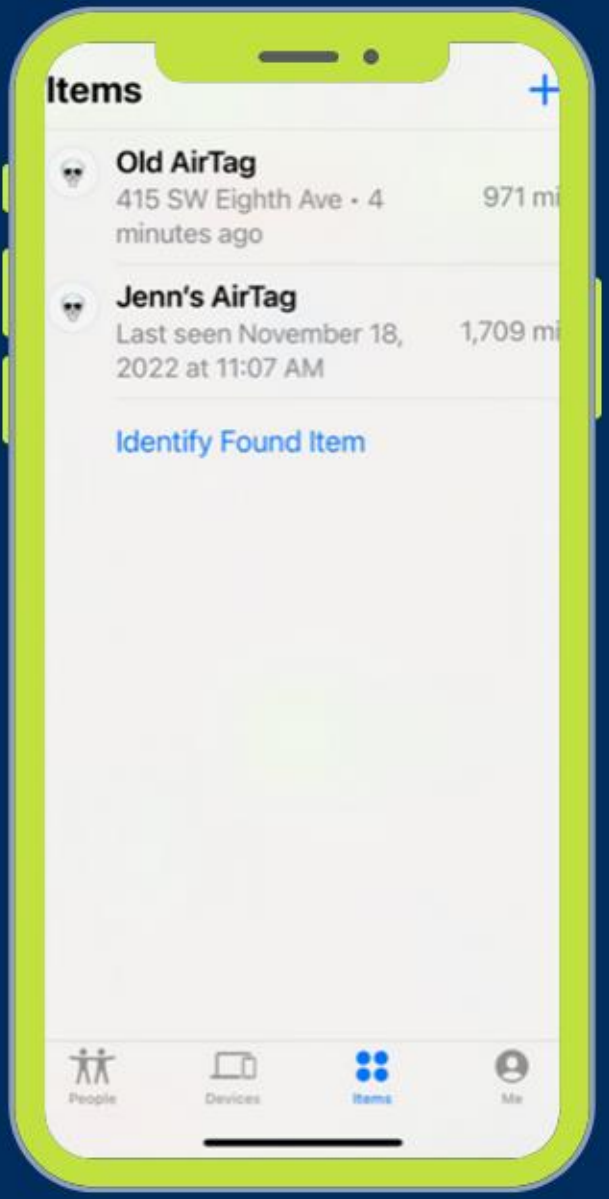

10:06
LTE
Emmett
Boise
Nampa
AirTag Detected Near You
First seen with you 51 minutes ago
Play Sound
Locate AirTag
Find
Nearby
Pause Tracking Notifications
Don't notify me about this AirTag


10:05
LTE
AirTag Detected Near You
First seen with you 50 minutes ago
Play Sound
Locate AirTag
Find
Nearby
Pause Tracking Notifications
Don't notify me about this AirTag
Learn About This AirTag
Instructions to Disable AirTag
If this AirTag is not familiar to you, learn how to disable it and stop sharing your location.

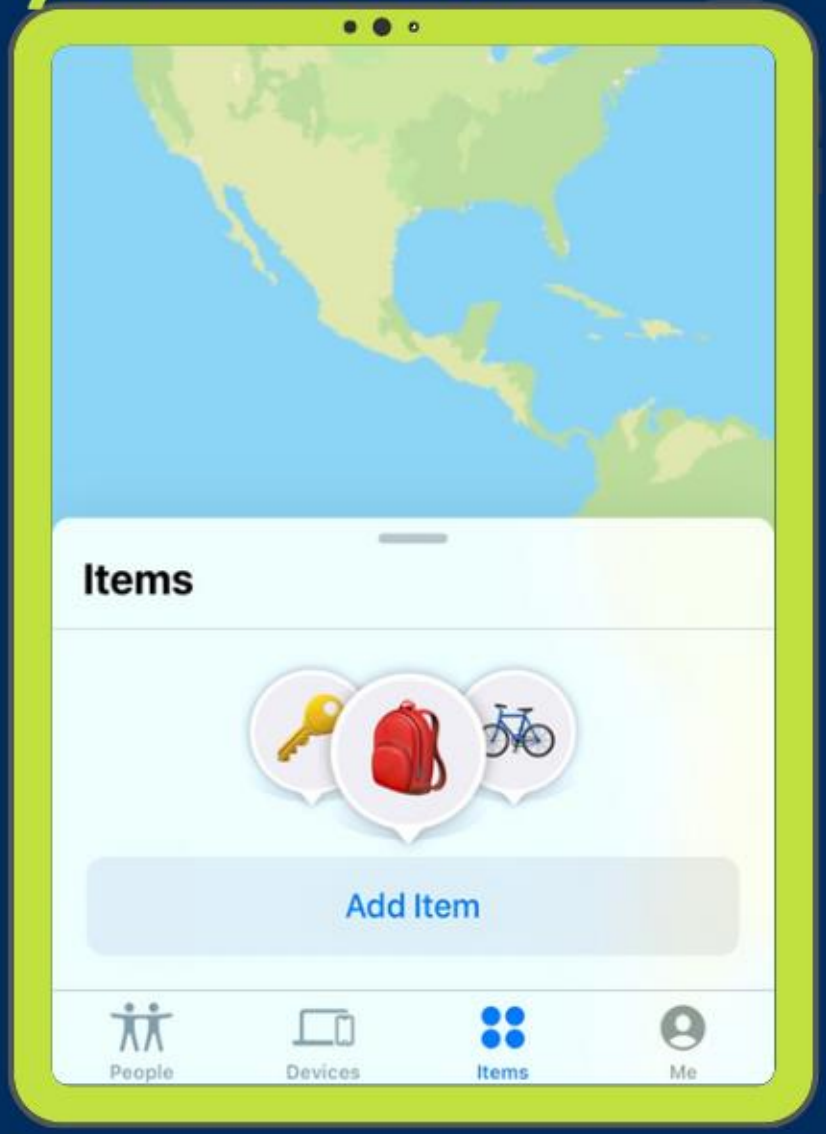
Apple: Search for "Find my" App

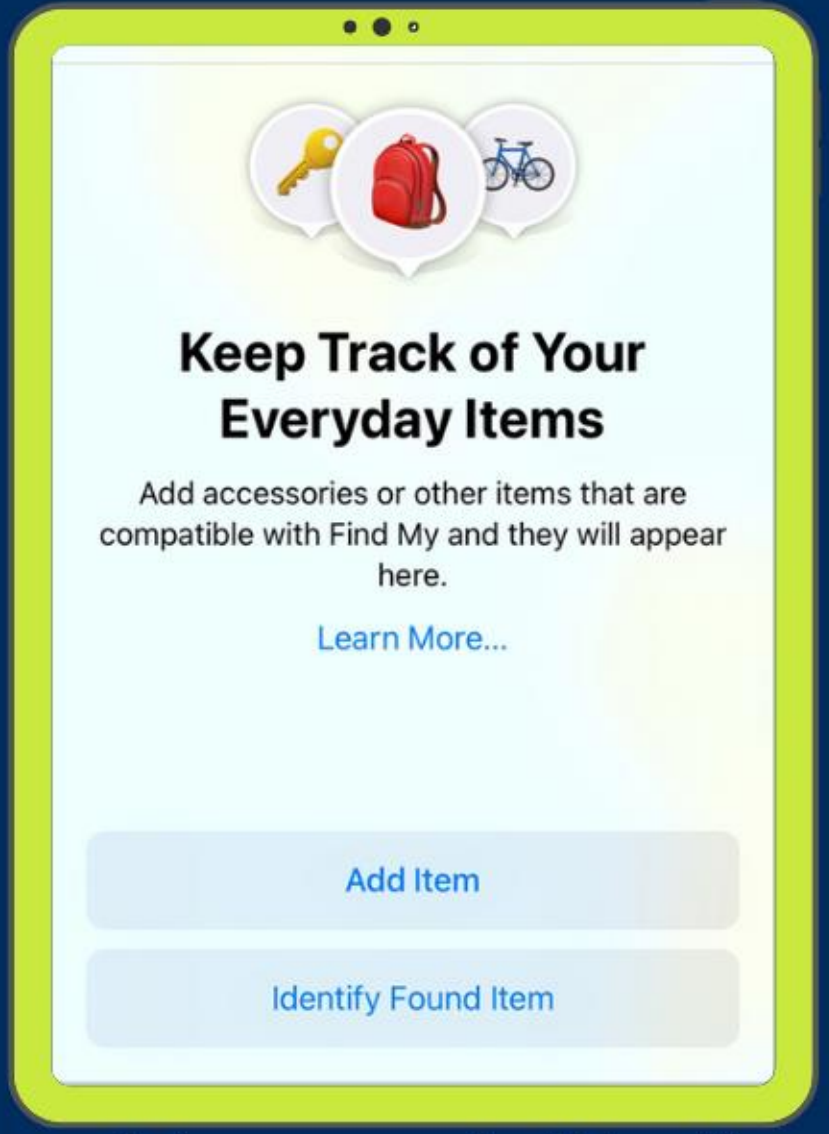


If you have items associated with your account



If you DO NOT have items associated with your account

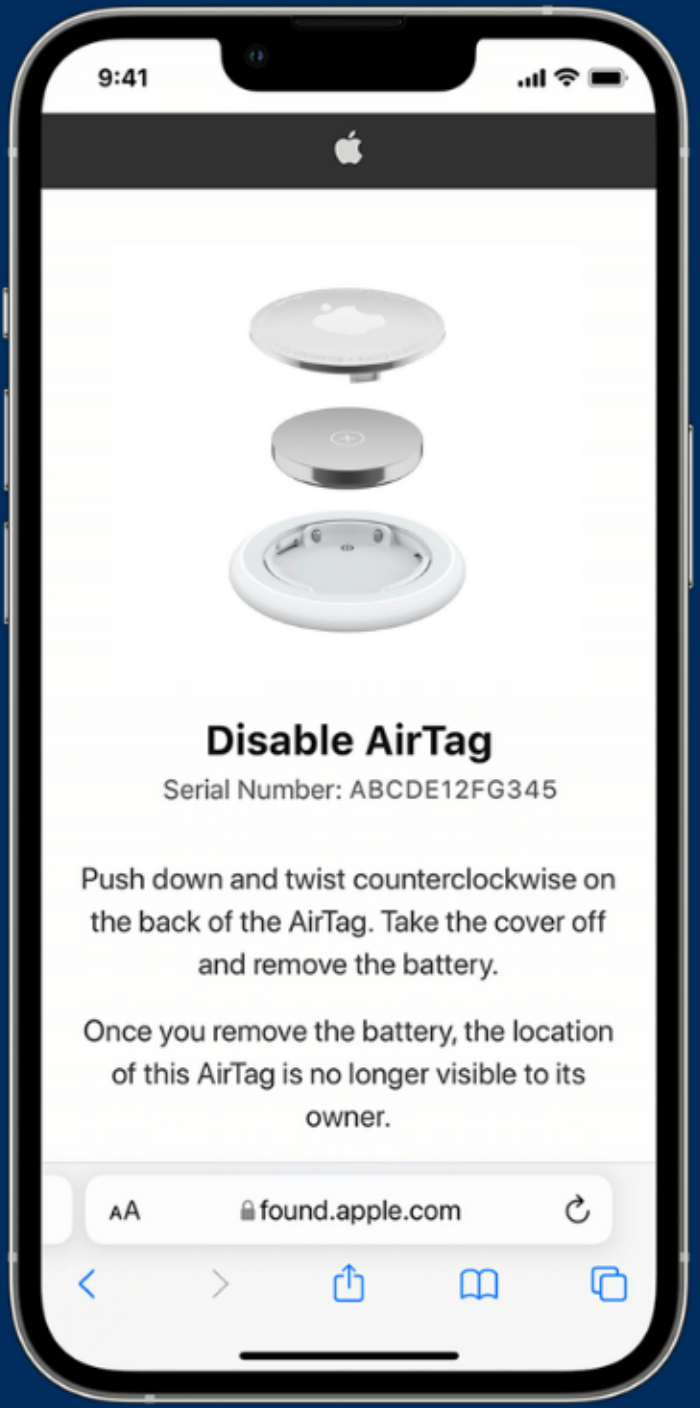




Swipe up to make "Identify Found Item" option appear


Searching Items...
You can learn more about lost items, or see if the owner has left a message, by connecting to it.
If you found an AirTag, you can learn more by holding the top of your iPhone over it until a notification appears.


9:41
About This AirTag
Serial Number: ABCDE12FG345
Owner: (***) ***-6789
An AirTag is used to keep track of everyday items like keys or a bag.
The serial number is registered to the owner of this AirTag. If this AirTag is not familiar to you, learn how to disable it and stop sharing your location.
Instructions to disable ›
AA
found.apple.com



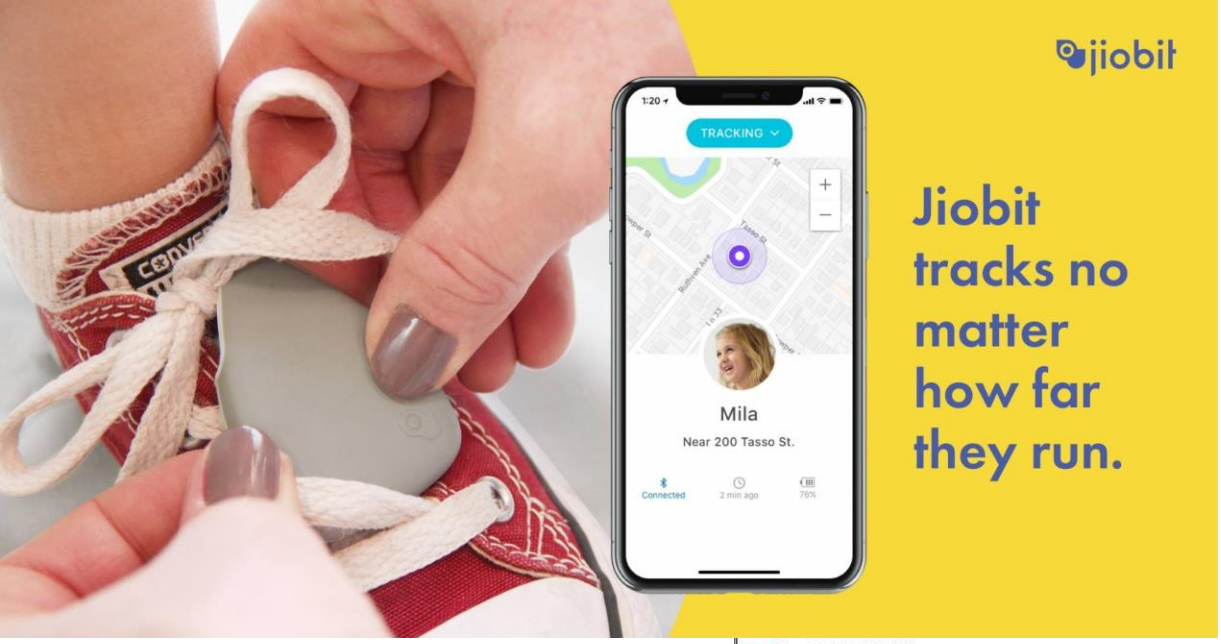
Disabling AirTag

- Opening the AirTag to view the serial number disables the Tag -- thereby alerting the offender that it's been found
  - Law enforcement should come to victim and consider faraday bag
- Turning off Bluetooth will NOT stop the device from emitting a signal to the offender
- Take screenshot for evidence

Evidence with AirTags

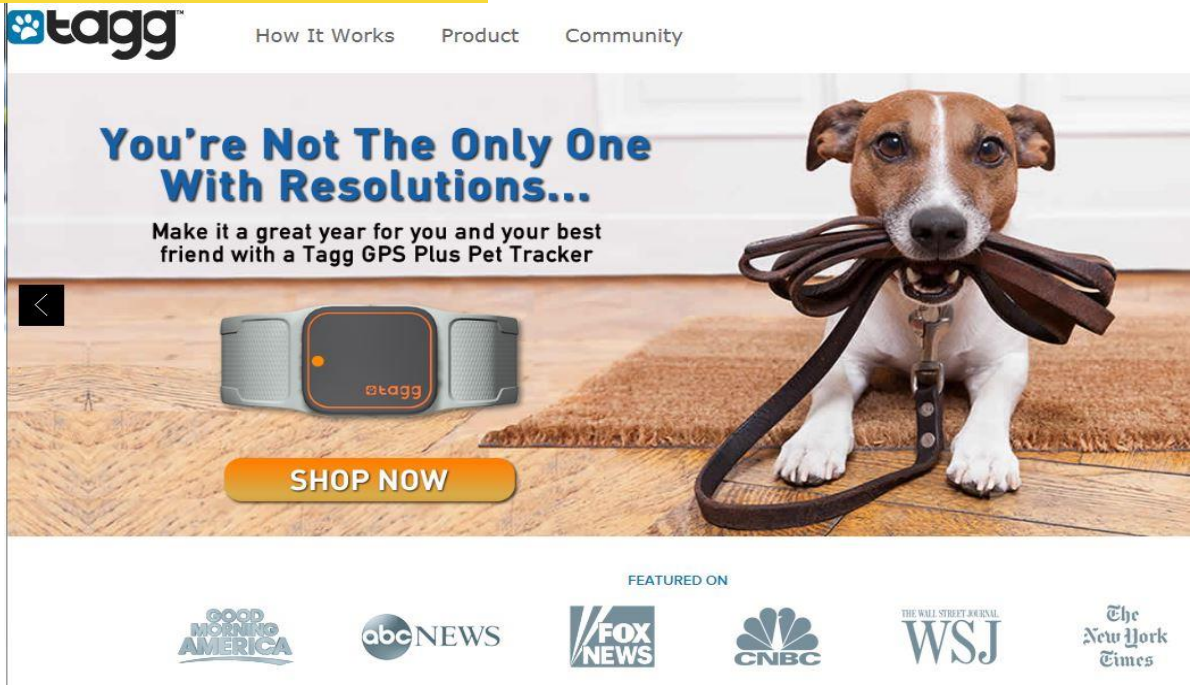
* Serial number is unique to each AirTag
* Serial number is on physical device, but will not show up on phone
* Contact lawenforcement@apple.com to check device registration
* Check financial records of suspect
* Contextual evidence

Global Positioning System (GPS) Devices

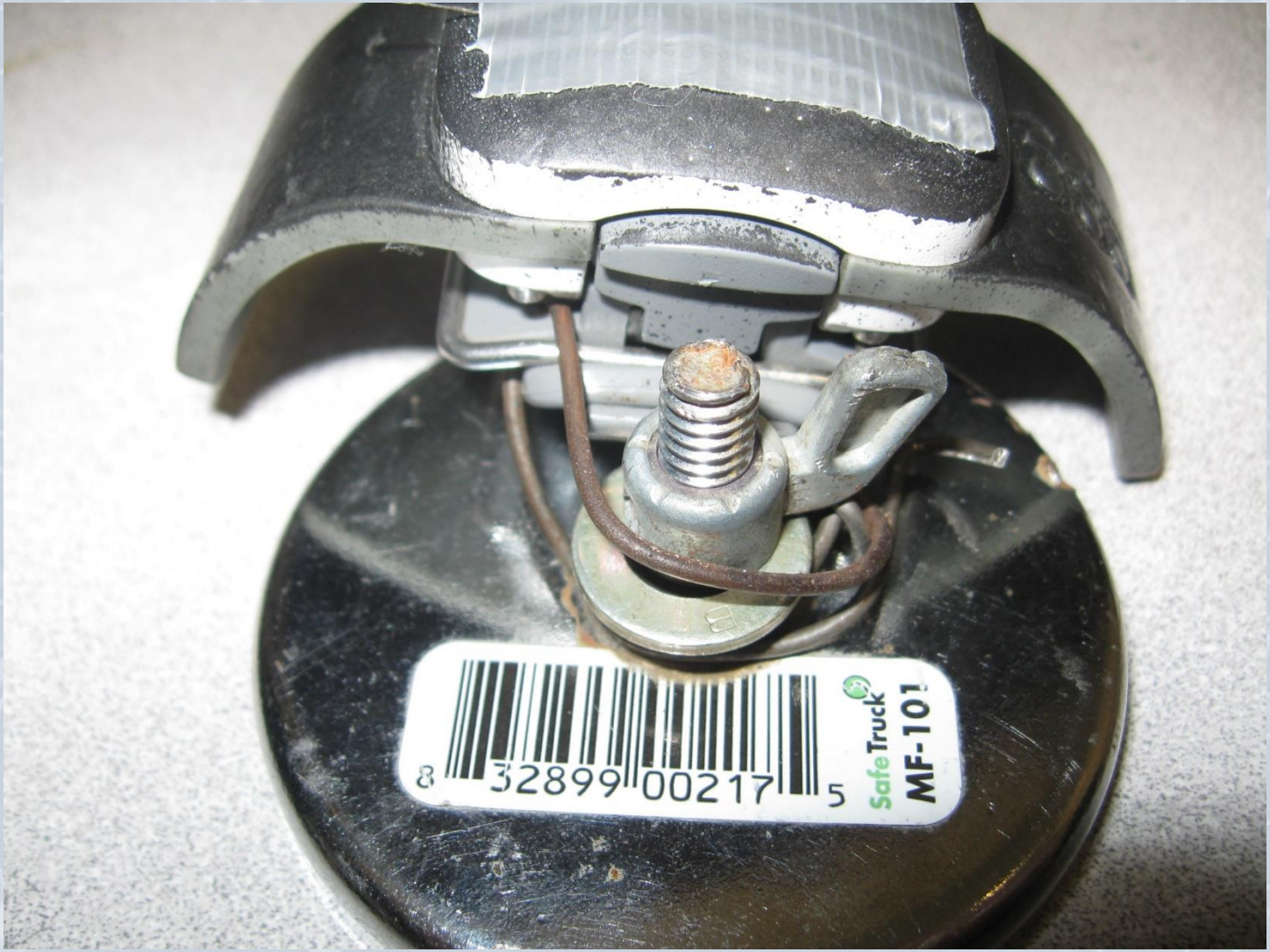


* Child trackers

* Pet trackers




THEFT TRACKER


8 32899 00217 5
SafeTruck
MF-101

Location Sharing

- May be coerced
- Victim may not realize they are sharing their location
- A stalker may utilize multiple methods/ applications to track their victims

Percentage of People Checking In or Sharing Their Location By Platform and Privacy Settings

	Private	Public		Private	Public
Facebook	57.1%	42.9%	Snapchat	60.9%	39.1%
Instagram	43.5%	56.5%	Twitter	26.5%	73.5%

Nearly 1 in 4 people felt it's extremely or moderately safe to share their location on social media.

30.7% of people with Snapchat shared their location on the Snapchat map.

Spoofing

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How can you remain anonymous when you call someone? The best way is by using SpoofCard. With SpoofCard you can change your CallerID to

SPARC

What You May Hear:

- “Numbers I don’t recognize call and harass me.”
- “I keep getting hang-up calls from random numbers.”
- "It shows up as my mom/friend/someone I know, but it is the offender calling.”
- “I know it’s the offender, but it doesn’t sound like them.”
- “I blocked the offender, but they just keep calling me from different numbers.”
- "People are saying I called them, but I didn't."

spooftel.com/freecall/index.php

SPOOFTEL
THE WORLD'S LEADER IN CALLER ID SPOOFING

username password go
forgot password

Free Call | Rates | FAQ | Apps | Developers | Contact | Sign Up

FREE CALLER ID SPOOFING TRIAL

It is more important than ever to protect your personal information and it all starts with a telephone number. A caller ID spoofer allows you to tweak how your phone number shows up through incoming calls.

It has never been easier to fake caller ID displays, maintaining your privacy and protecting your information. When you want to spoof a call, it involves more than a changed number. At SpoofTel, our services come along with a voice changer option.

Your Number

1

Enter the number you are calling from

Destination Number

1

Enter the number you would like to call

Spoof Number

Voice Pitch

Adjust the pitch of your voice

Soundboard

None

DLPERX

Like Save Tweet

Type here to search

ENG 9:41 AM

Spoofing

* Offenders spoof number victim will answer
* Offenders spoof victim with court, police, or other numbers victim will answer
* Offenders believe we can’t prove they spoofed the call

Documentation with a SpoofCard

* Phone records from: victim, “friend”, and suspect
    * Victim’s records show “friend” called but friend’s records show no call
    * Suspect’s records show a call to SpoofCard
        * Call the number and record
* Financial records of suspect

Stalkerware

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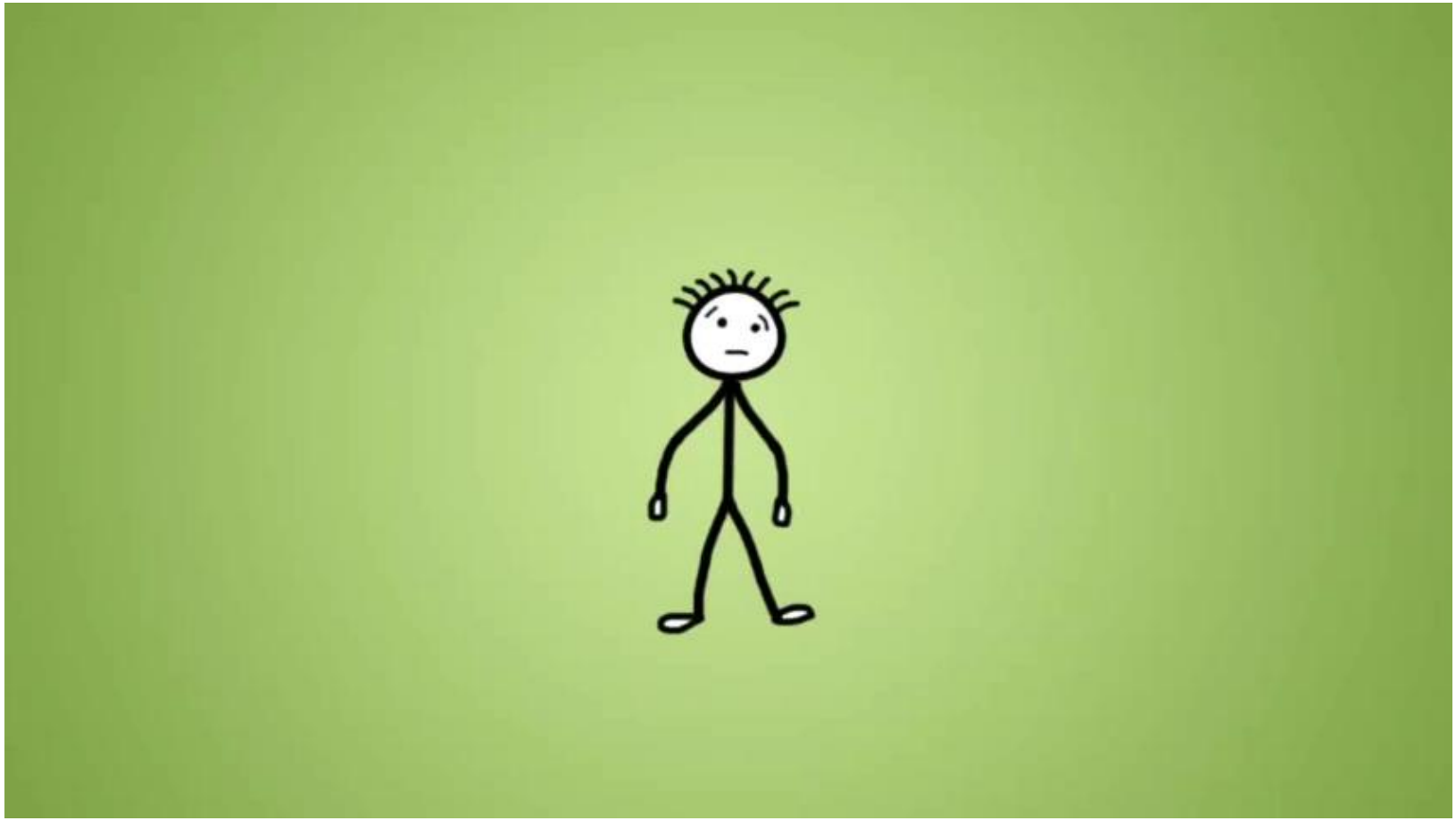
Cell Phone Spyware



Stalkerware: What You May Hear

- "They hacked my phone."
- "They hacked my account/s: e-mail, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat..."
- "They're reading my texts."
- "They are listening to my calls."
- "They seem to know everything I've done on my phone."
- "They know my passwords and logins, even though I just changed them."
- "They have and/or are referencing pictures of me I took on my phone."
- "They keep showing up where I am."

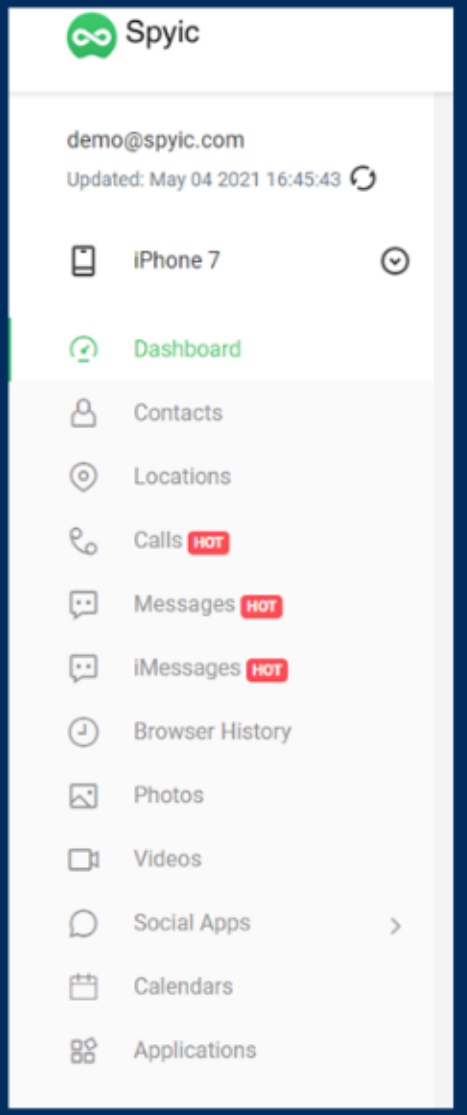
What is Stalkerware?

- Commercially available software used for spying
- Made for individual use
- Typically hides itself from the list of installed programs and does not display any activity notifications

COALITION AGAINST STALKERWARE

About Stalkerware

- Physical access to the device is almost always required for installation
- Can be on both Apple and Android devices, but more common on Android
- Best to assume all activities on device are being monitored

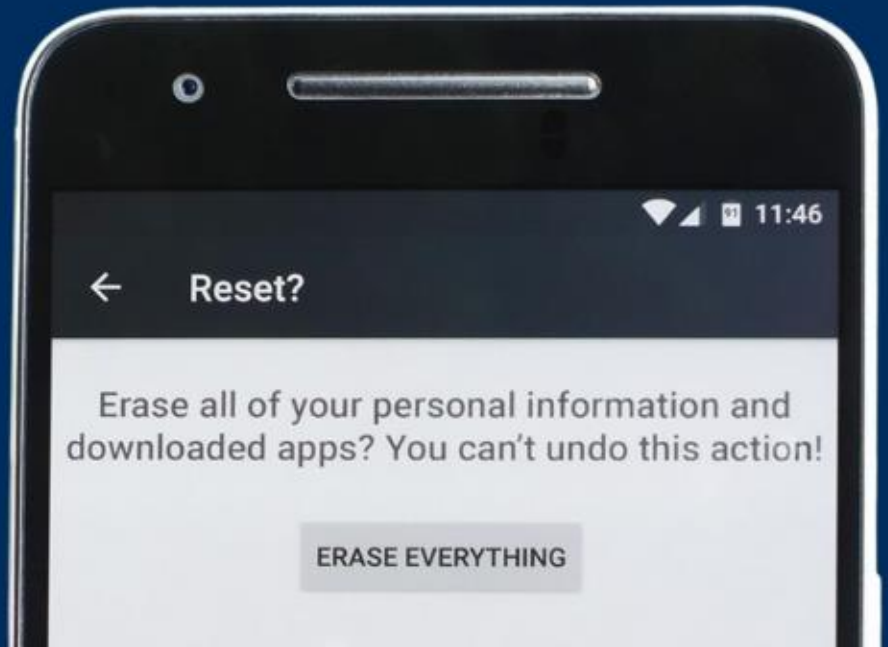


COALITION AGAINST STALKERWARE

Removing Stalkerware

All actions may cause potential safety concerns!

- Factory reset
  - Note: this also destroys the evidence
- Change passwords on all apps/accounts when re-installed
- Antivirus can sometimes remove stalkerware



COALITION AGAINST STALKERWARE

Non-Stalkerware Possibilities

SHARING SETTINGS

- Phone login and password security
- Cloud/Account Backup
- Family sharing, "find my device"

ACCOUNT ACCESS

- Individual accounts: e-mail, social media, dating websites
- Smart device accounts
- Previously shared accounts

OTHER TOOLS

- Devices: GPS tracker, key logger, cameras, recording devices
- Friends, family, colleagues

Public Data

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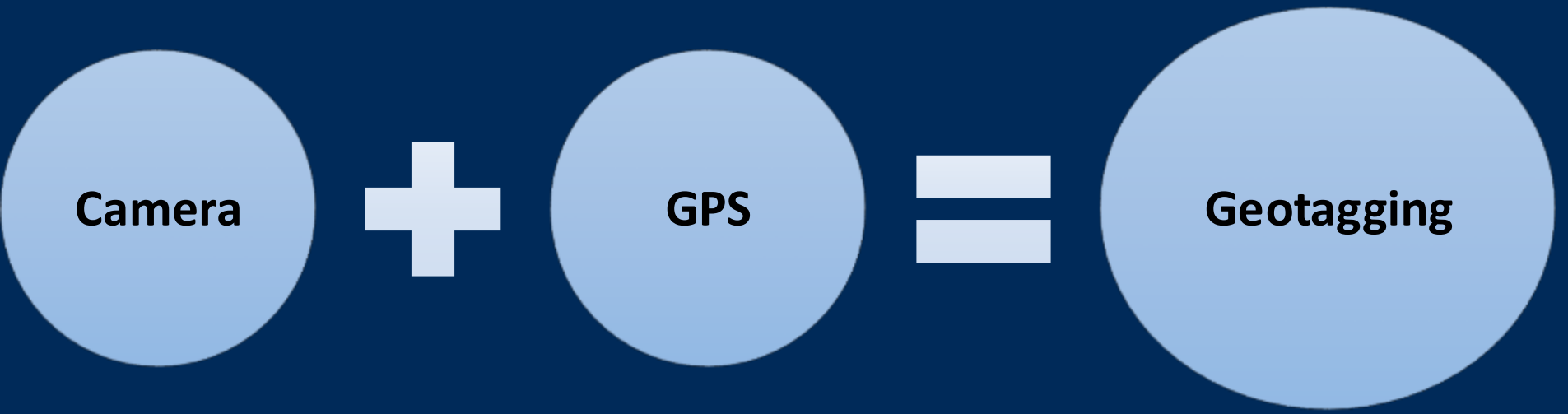
Geotagging



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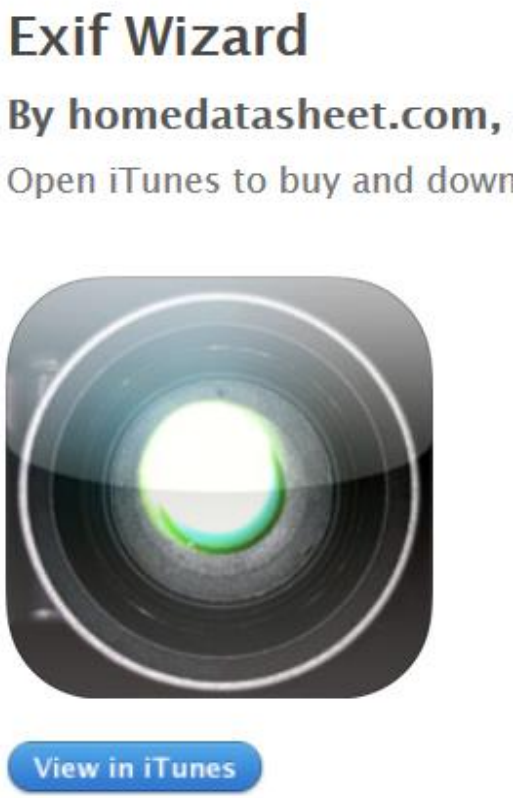
Exif Viewers Show Geo-Info

Exif: Exchangeable image file format: Descriptive data (meta-data) in an image file that include the date the photo was taken, resolution, shutter speed, focal length and geolocation



EXIF Data

http://regex.info/exif.cgi

Jeffrey's Exif Viewer

From Web / From File — Image URL: [ ] View Image At

Basic Image Information

Target file: IMG_7655[1].JPG

Camera:	Apple iPhone 6
Lens:	iPhone 6 back camera 4.15mm f/2.2 Shot at 4.2 mm Digital Zoom: 2.362934363×
Exposure:	Auto exposure, Program AE, 1/30 sec, f/2.2, ISO 200
Flash:	Off, Did not fire
Date:	**March 2, 2016** 7:50:32PM (timezone not specified) (1 hour, 31 minutes, 8 seconds ago, assuming image timezone of US Pacific)
Location:	Latitude/longitude: **38**° 58' 1.9" North, **92**° 22' 26.2" West (38.967208, -92.373947) Location guessed from coordinates: *2200 Interstate 70 Dr SW, Columbia, MO 65203, USA* Map via embedded coordinates at: Google, Yahoo, WikiMapia, OpenStreetMap, Bing (also see the Google Maps pane below) Altitude: 223 meters (731 feet) Camera Pointing: South
File:	**3,264** × **2,448** JPEG (**8.0** megapixels) 1,193,426 bytes (1.1 megabytes)
Color Encoding:	**WARNING:** Color space tagged as sRGB, without an embedded color profile. **Windows and Mac browsers and apps treat the colors randomly.** Images for the web are most widely viewable when in the sRGB color space and with an embedded color profile. See my Introduction to Digital-Image Color Spaces for more information.

Viewing EXIF data

* Online exif data viewers
* Apps
* Right click on the photo on a desktop and go to properties-details

Safety Strategies

* Turn location “off” on cell phone camera
* Review social media site to determine if exif data can be viewed
* Remove exif data using an online exif data removal tool

Google My Activity

Web & App Activity

Your Web & App Activity includes the things you do on Google services, like Maps, Search, and Play. It can also include things you do on sites, apps, and devices that use Google services or your voice and audio recordings. The activity you keep is used to give you more personalized experiences, like faster searches and more helpful app and content recommendations.

You can see your activity, delete it manually, or choose to delete it automatically using the controls on this page. Learn more

Saving activity
Your Web & App Activity is on
Saving audio is off

Auto-delete (Off)
Choose an auto-delete option

Google protects your privacy and security. Manage My Activity verification

Search your activity

google.com
Today

Shopping

Viewed Blue by ADT Starter Home Security System

1:45 PM • Details

Shopping

Viewed SimpliSafe No Contract Wireless Security System

1:45 PM • Details

Search

Searched for security system

1:45 PM • Details

Maps

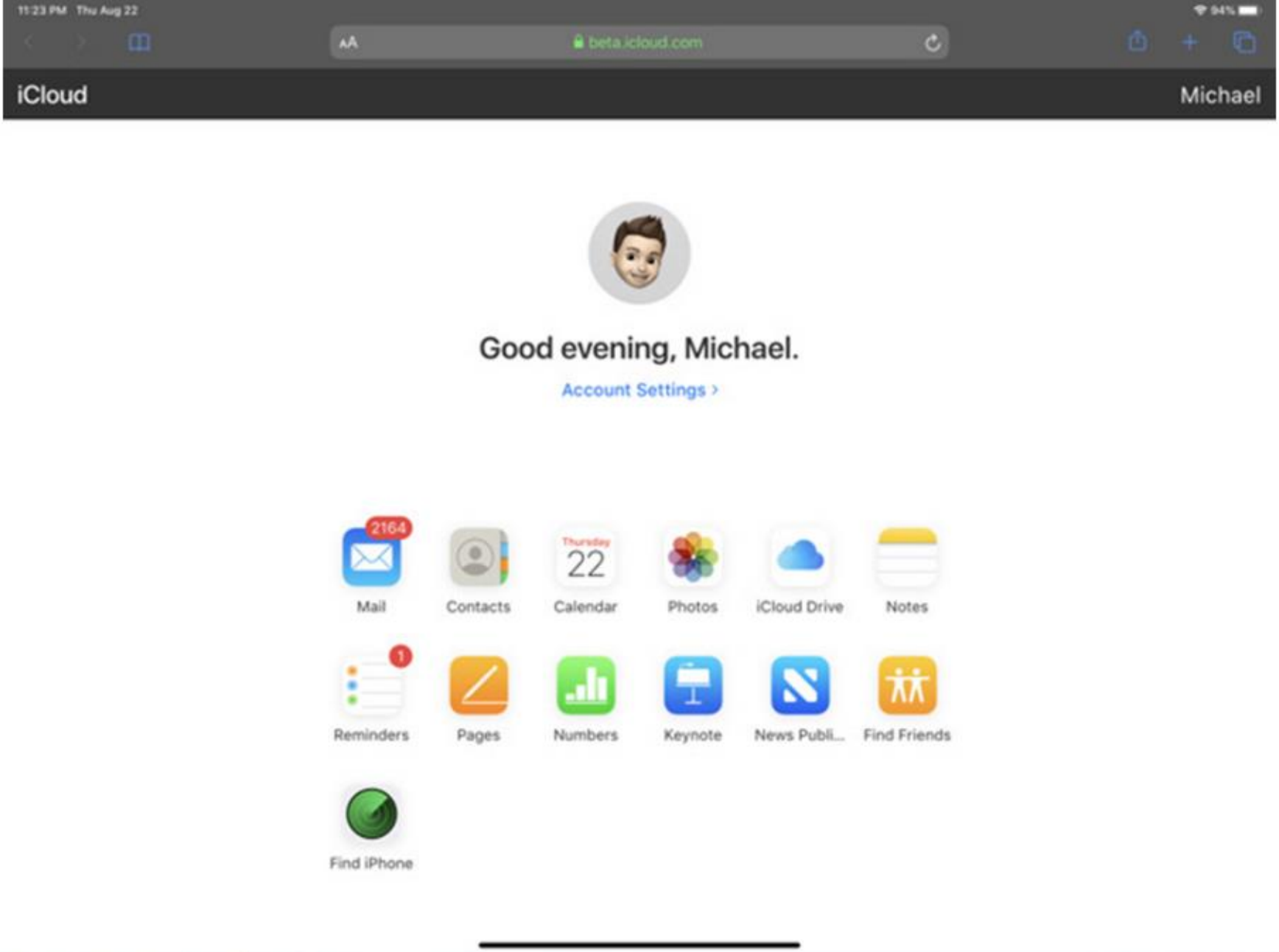
Montgomery Avenue Women's Center

1:45 PM • Details

Maps

Searched for domestic violence shelter

1:45 PM • • Details


11:23 PM Thu Aug 22
94%
AA
beta.icloud.com
iCloud
Michael
Good evening, Michael.
Account Settings ›
2164
Mail
Contacts
Thursday
22
Calendar
Photos
iCloud Drive
Notes
1
Reminders
Pages
Numbers
Keynote
News Publi...
Find Friends
Find iPhone

Find Yourself…

* FastPeopleSearch.com
* TruePeopleSearch.com
* PeopleSearchNow.com

Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images

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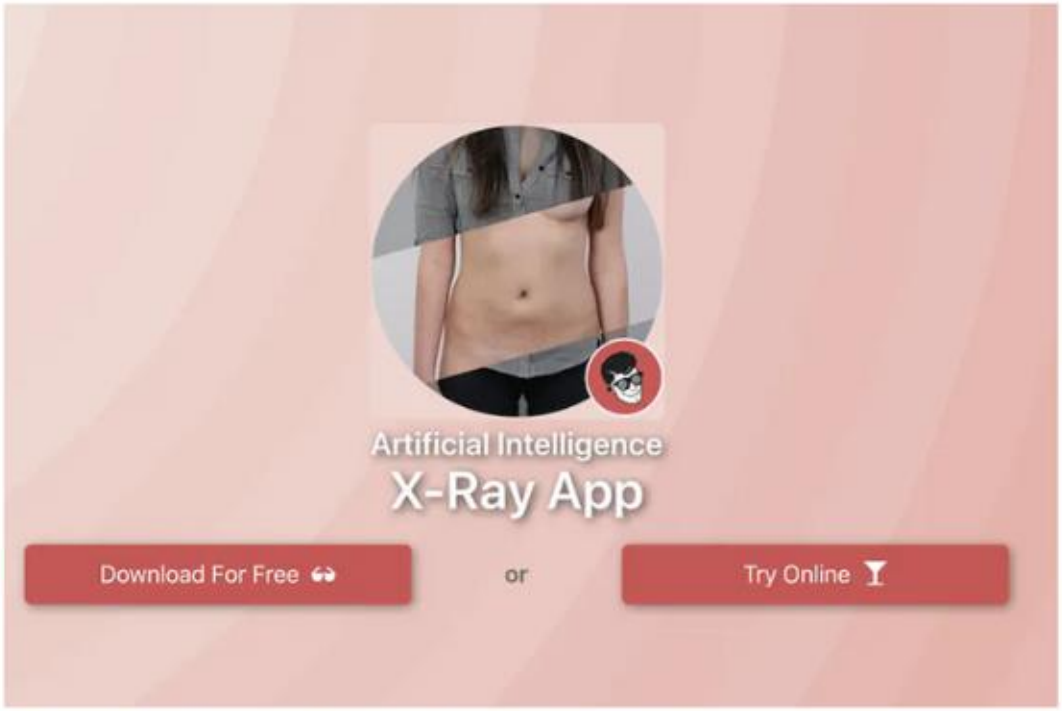
16%
OF VICTIMS
18-24 YEARS OLD
REPORT THAT THE STALKER SHARED NUDE, SEMI-NUDE, AND/OR SEXUALLY EXPLICIT PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF THEM
Brady, P. Q., & Woodward Griffin, V. (2019). The Intersection of Stalking and Sexual Assault Among Emerging Adults: Unpublished Preliminary Results. mTurk Findings, 2018.

New AI deepfake app creates nude images of women in seconds



The DeepNude app creates AI fakes at the click of a button.

/ The resulting fakes could be used to shame, harass, and intimidate their targets

By JAMES VINCENT
Jun 27, 2019, 6:23 AM EDT | 0 Comments / 0 New

Nonconsensual Image Resources

#CCRI
Cyber Civil Rights Initiative

Image Abuse Helpline:
1-844-878-2274
CyberCivilRights.org

StopNCII.org
Stop Non-Consensual Intimate Image Abuse

C.A.GOLDBERG
VICTIMS' RIGHTS LAW FIRM
www.cagoldberglaw.com

DMCA
DEFENDER
DMCADefender.com

Technology-Facilitated Stalking and Sexual Assault

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Sexual Assault, Stalking, & Technology

- Offenders use technology to facilitate and cover up sexual violence
  - Using platforms to find and groom victims (messages, online communities)
  - Gifts that monitor or allow access
- Misusing access to publicly available data to gain information
- Threats to disseminate intimate images
  - Including those acquired through surveillance cameras
- Sexual exploitation/trafficking via tech

DENVER 04/07/2010 05:12 am ET | **Updated** Dec 06, 2017

Jebidiah Stipe, Wyoming Marine, Solicited Ex-Girlfriend's Rape And Assault On Craigslist

Details emerge in Web rape case

California Marine also tried to solicit rape of ex-wife, authorities say

By WILLIAM BROWNING - Star-Tribune staff writer Feb 5, 2010 0

Judge gives man 60 years in Craigslist rape case

Dating App Facilitated Sexual Assault (DAppSAs)

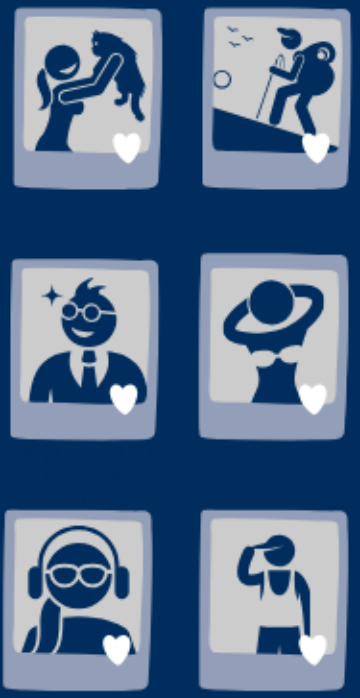
- 14% of the 1,968 rapes committed by acquaintances occurred during an initial meetup arranged through a dating app
- High percentage of victims with self-reported mental illness (59.6%)
- More violent SAs than acquaintance SAs
  - Increased strangulation (32.4%); assaultive/penetrative acts; and victim injuries, especially anogenital and breast injuries

"Due to the increased violent nature of DAppSAs, the researchers propose that sexual predators use dating apps as hunting grounds for vulnerable victims."

Valentine, J. L., Miles, L. W., Mella Hamblin, K., & Worthen Gibbons, A. (2023). Dating App Facilitated Sexual Assault: A Retrospective Review of Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination Charts. Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 38(9–10), 6298–6322.

Dating App Concerns

- Use proximity-based location
- No screening out of sexual offenders
- DAppSA more likely to be currently enrolled college students (compared to non DAppSA victims)
- Male victims -- percentage of DAppSA male victims was 2x more than rate of nonDAppSA male victims
- DAppSA victims were significantly more likely to self-report mental health and chronic medical issues



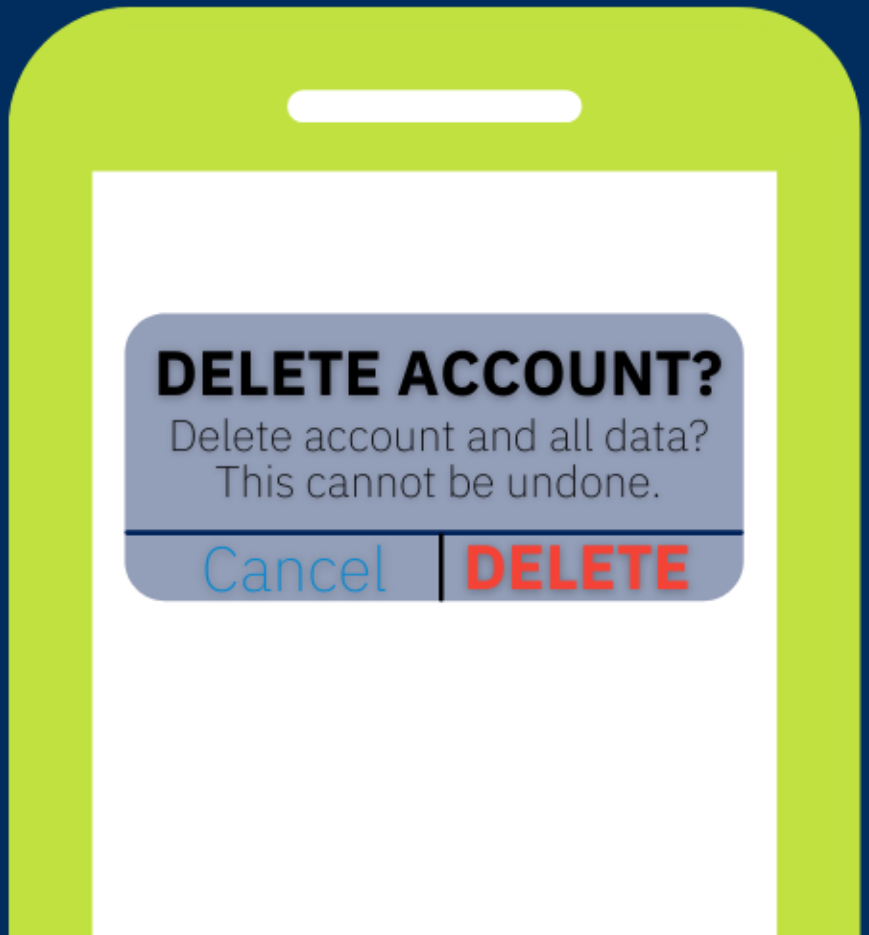
Valentine, J. L., Miles, L. W., Mella Hamblin, K., & Worthen Gibbons, A. (2023). Dating App Facilitated Sexual Assault: A Retrospective Review of Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination Charts. Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 38(9–10), 6298–6322.

Use of Technology to Stalk

Responding to Victims

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

Should victims just log off?

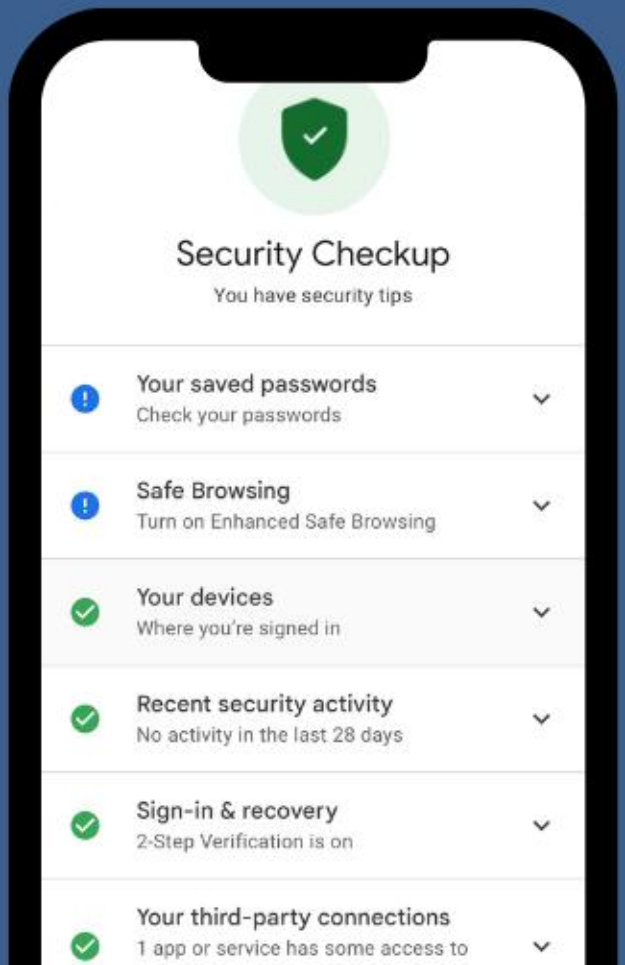


Safety Planning and Technology

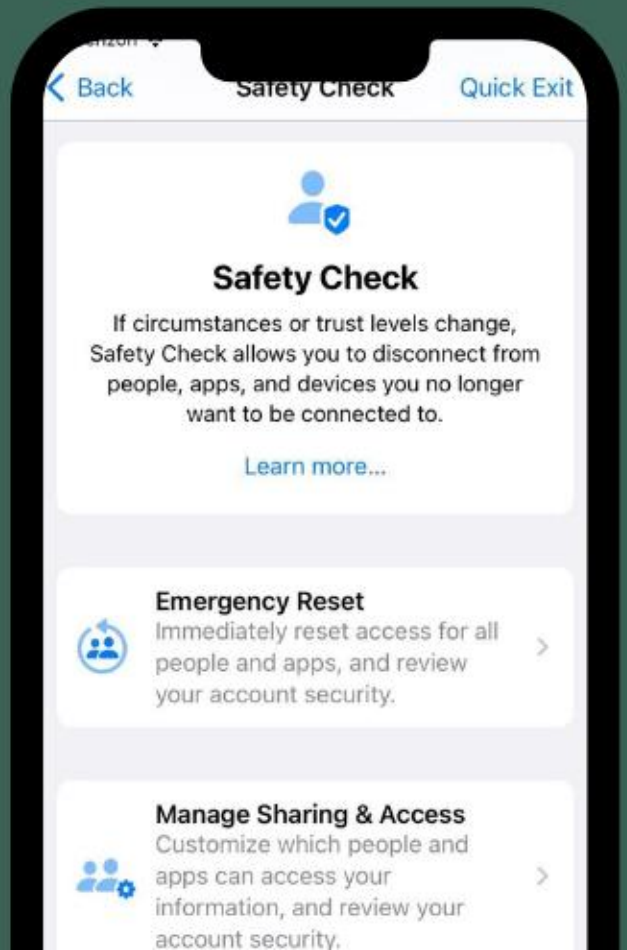
Victims may consider:

- Secure passwords
- Hard-to-guess security questions
- Enable 2-factor authentication
- Use a second, safer device when/if possible
- Learn about settings and location-sharing defaults, set these intentionally
- Be mindful of smart device and social media usage

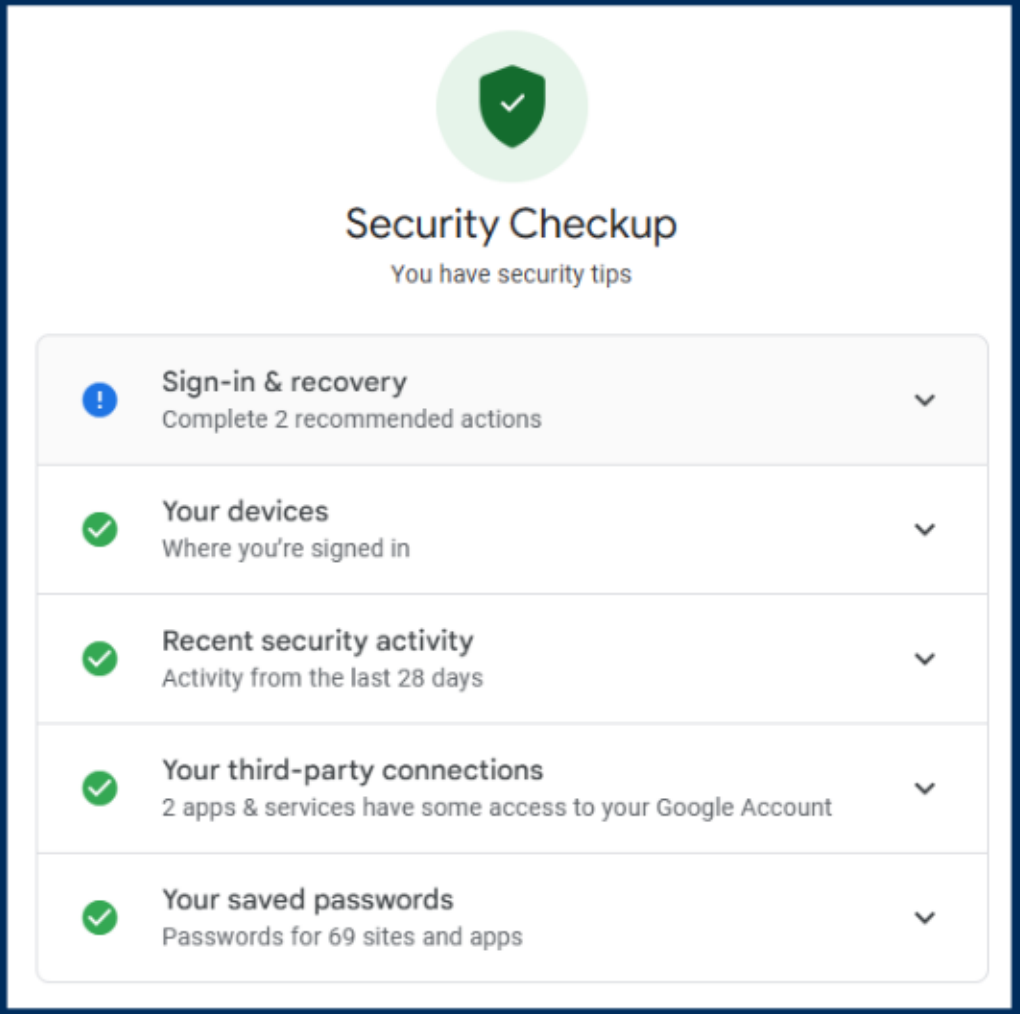
Android and Gmail users should use Google's Security Checkup



Apple users should update their phones and use Apple's Safety Check



Gmail Safety Check

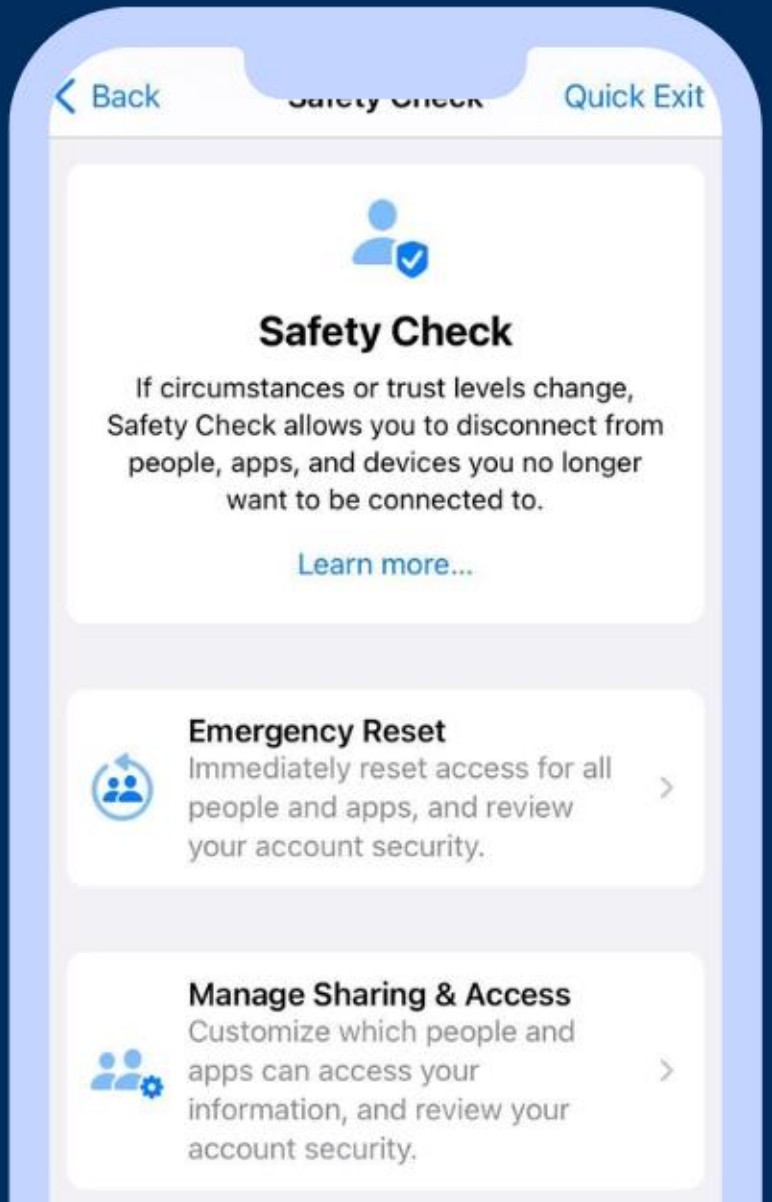


- Gmail account is connected to and controls key safety elements of Android phones
- Gmail account is also key to many important accounts for password reset
- Go to Security Checkup and review all tabs
  - Check access, sign-in, recovery, and sharing - including e-mail forwarding or linked accounts

MyAccount/Google.com/security-checkup

Apple Safety Check

- Where?
  - Settings > Privacy and Security > Safety Check
- Why?
  - Location tracking, text messages, phone call history, e-mails, credit cards
  - Highest risk!

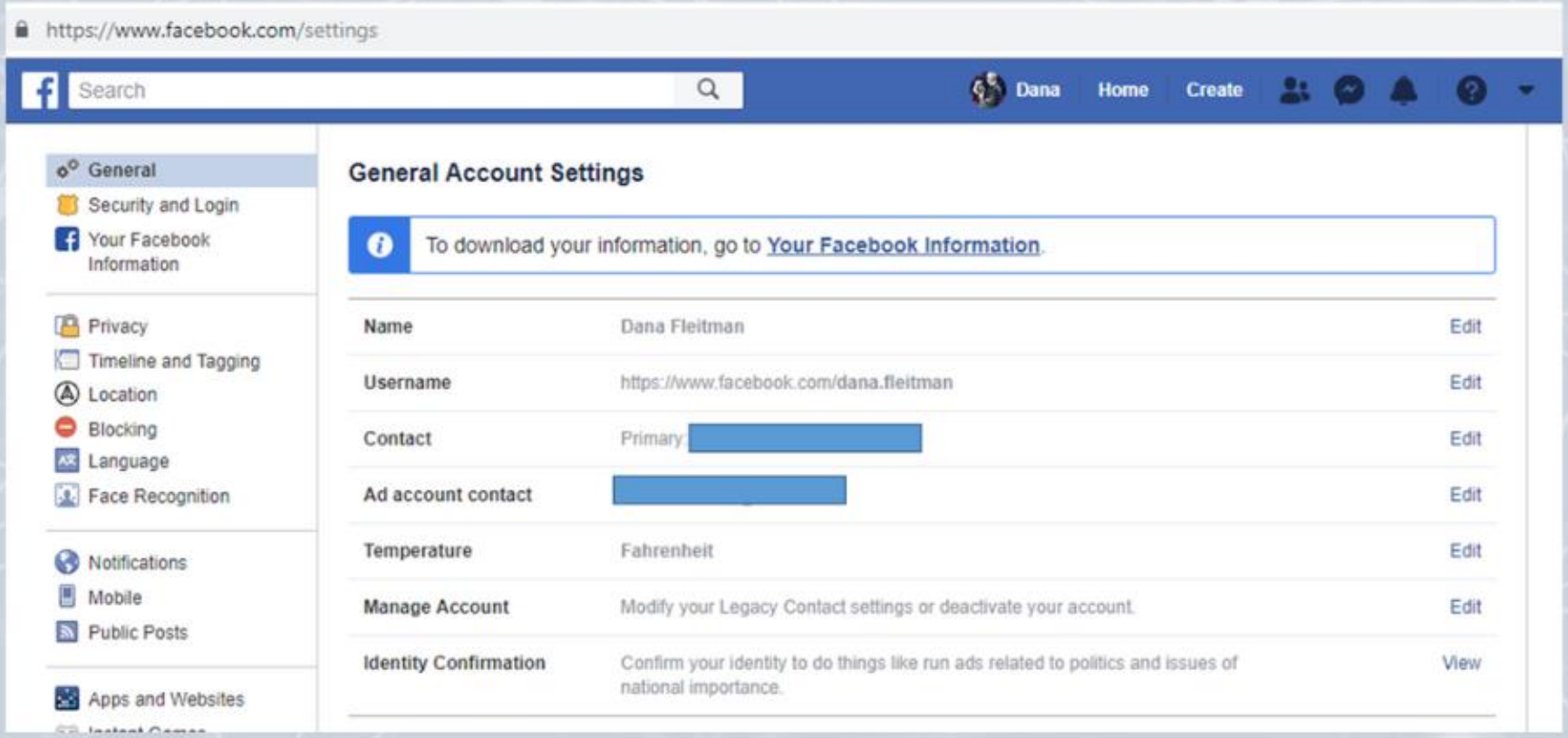


Documentation

* Screenshot or take photos of call log / text conversation
* Overlap screenshots / photos
* Capture time and date
* Take screenshot / photo of the contact info
* Consider apps like Tailor or StitchIt

Facebook Documentation

* Capture and save screenshots (PrntScrn)
* Some sites offer a “download your information” service in account settings



Technology & Stalking: Big Picture

* **Believe victims.** Offenders can misuse technology a variety of creative ways to access, contact, and monitor their victims.
* **This technology is out there – and it's easy to use.** Offenders don't have to be particularly "tech savvy" to terrorize victims through technology.
* **Build knowledge on privacy/sharing settings across applications and devices.** Sharing settings/defaults are often not intuitive.
* **Ask specific questions about offender contact and knowledge.** This can better help you collect evidence and safety plan.
* **Consider both evidence preservation and victim safety.** See if the victim has access to a safer device.
* **Charge relevant technology-related crimes** (when appropriate and applicable).

JUST TECH

INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION OF ONLINE ABUSE

AEQUITAS SPARC

Targeting prosecutors and law enforcement officers, Just Tech aims to increase the likelihood of positive case outcomes and victim experiences, as well as address the disproportionate impact of online abuse experienced by underserved communities.

NNEDV
Tech Safety

Tech Safety

Welcome to the Tech Safety App. This app contains information that can help someone identify technology-facilitated harassment, stalking, or abuse and includes tips on what can be done.

Download on the App Store

Get it on Google play

SPARC

For Victims

Victim Connect

resource center

Confidential referrals for crime victims

855-4-VICTIM

STALKING INCIDENT LOG

Date	Time	Description of Incident	Location of Incident	Witness Name(s) (Attach Address and Phone #)	Police Called (Report #)	Officer Name (Badge #)

Wrap Up & Resources

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

STALKING RESPONSE CHECKLISTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS & CAMPUSES

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

Addressing Stalking: A Checklist for Domestic and Sexual Violence Organizations

Because there are very few stalking-specific service providers, stalking victims rely on d
sexual violence programs to assist them with safety planning and resources. In reviewi
response to stalking, consider the following questions:

- Does your organization provide services to victims of stalking?
- If so, how easy is it for a stalking victim to know they can seek services from your
  For instance, is stalking specifically mentioned in your outreach materials?
- Do your organization's services address the needs of all victims of stalking – incl
  stalked by someone who is not an intimate partner?

Please use the checklist below assess your agency's efforts to respond to stalkin
Of course, different agencies vary in mission, scope, and capacity, so not all categ
will be relevant to or feasible for every service provider.

Organization Mission and Values

- ❑ Serving victims of stalking is included as part of your organization's state
  values.

Website

- ❑ "Stalking" is mentioned on your website as a form of violence your age
- ❑ Your website links to Victim Connect (the referral hotline for victims o
  including stalking).
- ❑ Your website provides definitional information/fact sheets on stalkin
- ❑ Your website provides a link to a stalking log that victims can use to
  stalking.
- ❑ Your website features stories that focus on or include stalking.
- ❑ Your website notes that January is National Stalking Awareness M

Social Media

- ❑ Your organization participates in National Stalking Awareness M
  relevant posts on your social media platforms.
- ❑ media platforms feature stories that focus on or inc
  stalking with

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

Addressing Stalking: A Checklist for Campus Professionals

Stalking is a violation of student conduct codes and Title IX and a crime under the laws of the 50 states, District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and Federal government. Adults 18-24 years old experience the highest rates of stalking, making it vital for universities to appropriately address stalking on campus and ensure services are accessible to all stalking victims.

In reviewing your university's response to stalking, consider the following questions:

- Does your university provide stalking-specific services to victims? For example, counseling services for victims of stalking, access to an advocate for safety planning, or information on campus no contact/protection orders and civil protection orders?
- How easy is it for a stalking victim to know they can seek services and from whom? For instance, is stalking mentioned specifically in outreach materials from your Title IX office, crisis center, gender resource center, office of residential life, and/or campus security/police?
- Do University policies and services address the needs of all victims of stalking, including those who do not primarily present as sexual assault victims and regardless of the victim-offender relationship, i.e. whether the stalker is/was an intimate partner, acquaintance, friend, stranger, family member, person of authority, etc.?
- Do University policies and services address stalkers and victims who are students, faculty, volunteers, alumni, and/or staff?

Use the checklist below to assess your campus efforts to respond to stalking.

Different offices and/or services vary in mission, scope and capacity, so not all categories or suggestions will be relevant or feasible. University programs that should consicer this assessment include:

- ☐ Advocacy services
- ☐ Campus security/police/public safety
- ☐ Crisis center and/or hotline
- ☐ Gender resource center
- ☐ Greek life
- ☐ Health services
- ☐ Housing and residential life
- ☐ Mental health and counseling services
- ☐ Student affairs
- ☐ Student conduct and discipline
- ☐ Title IX office

1. Website Information

- ☐ Stalking is listed as a form of violence the university addresses

CAMPUS INVESTIGATIONS & HEARINGS

STALKING & TITLE IX

ASK THE ACCUSED / RESPONDENT

often the first to minimize what is happening to them and friends, family, peers, and responders also often

TIPS FOR CAMPUS STALKING INVESTIGATIONS AND HEARINGS

Stalking is a serious, prevalent, and dangerous crime that impacts every campus in the United States; that is a violation of student conduct codes and Title IX; and that is a crime under the laws of the 50 states, District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, Uniform Code of Military Justice, and Federal government, as well as many tribal jurisdictions.

When a school investigates a report of stalking and holds disciplinary or Title IX hearings, there are a lot of things to consider. This document provides guidance on what is important to consider and what is important to ask the victim/complainant and accused stalker/respondent. To refresh your understanding of stalking, watch webinars and read resources at StalkingAwareness.org. To review how stalking is covered under Title IX, see our resource on The Basics of Stalking and Title IX.

Schools that receive federal funding are required by Title IX to remedy any situation of sex discrimination, address its effects, and prevent it from happening again. Violating these requirements could cause a school to lose its federal funding or be liable for monetary damages to the student whose rights were violated.

Title IX defines stalking as **a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.**

The individual incidents that establish a pattern of behavior may not be a violation on their own.

Fear is central to the definition of stalking. Common stalking behaviors include—but are not limited to—repeated unwanted phone calls and messages, showing up when uninvited, following, surveillance, spreading rumors, and threats.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Victims' perceptions of their own risk and what their stalker is capable of are one of the most accurate predictors of risk. The Stalking and Harassment Assessment and Risk Profile (SHARP) is a tool designed specifically to examine and assess stalking. It is a free web-based assessment available at www.CoerciveControl.org that assesses the "big picture" of the stalking situation and a victim's risk in the moment.

Remember that victims are sometimes unsure if what they are

What else can schools do to support stalking survivors?

Stalking is a crime under the laws of the 50 states, District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, Federal government, as well as many tribal codes.[14] Schools should ensure students know

People react to stalkers in a variety of ways. Some may seem irritated or angry rather than scared, while others may and dismiss their stalking as "no big deal." Irritation, anger, and/or minimization may be masking fear. It is helpful to

STALKING AND TITLE IX: THE BASICS

What is Title IX?

From elementary schools to higher education, Title IX prohibits any school that receives federal funding from discrimination on the basis of sex and requires schools to respond to and remedy hostile educational environments. Violating these mean a school could lose its federal funding or be sued by the student whose rights under Title IX were violated.

> **Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972:**
> **No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.**

Supreme Court decisions and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education have further explained what Title IX means and what it covers. A school's Title IX responsibilities represent the floor, not the ceiling, of actions that schools can take to support victims.

Do schools have an obligation to protect their students from stalking under Title IX?

Title IX calls discrimination on the basis of sex "sexual harassment," with a slightly different meaning than you might think. It defines "sexual harassment" as unwelcome sexual or other conduct on the basis of sex, including a single instance of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.[1]

New regulations announced by the Department of Education (DOE) in August 2020 specifically added stalking to the definition of sexual harassment.[2] Prior to these new rules, Title IX did not explicitly recognize stalking as a form of sexual harassment.[3] Unlike the informal guidance they replaced,[4] the new Title IX regulations underwent a formal rulemaking process. This means that schools—at a minimum—are obligated to implement policies and procedures that adhere to the new regulations. The DOE will consult and apply the new regulations when determining whether a school violated Title IX or if a student's rights under Title IX were protected by their school.

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