

Have you encountered online depictions of abuse or witnessed their dissemination?

Depictions of abuse generally show a **sexual act with, by, or in front of minors**. Legally, what are also covered are so-called posing of minors, i.e. images of minors in a “sexualized pose” (with no activity required). The production, ownership and dissemination of depictions of abuse are illegal under the German Criminal Code (StGB).

Note: This also applies in the case of an attempt by private individuals. to preserve evidence.

In Germany, how you can help and what you should bear in mind:

What is now very important:

- **Do not “save”/actively store any content** (e.g. screenshots of images/videos)
- **Do not disseminate any content** (e.g. forwarding, sending or displaying)
- **Do not conduct (any further) research yourself**

DON'Ts

What you can do in any case:

DOs

Is the content (image/video) publicly accessible?

(e.g. website, social media, downloads)

- **Take a copy of the specific site** (e.g. address of the website/URL)
- **Report** this specific reference to **one of the German hotlines**:
➔ [eco](https://www.eco.de), [FSM](https://www.fsm.de) und [jugendschutz.net](https://www.jugendschutz.net)
(also possible on an anonymous basis!)
- Follow any **recommendations from the hotlines** and, in the instance of emotional stress or insecurity, you can seek **advice and help** (e.g. via the German help desks “Nummer gegen Kummer” or “Hilfe-Telefon Sexueller Missbrauch”)

Is the content disseminated in the context of private communication?

(e.g. in messengers or chat groups)

- **Go with the device to the police**, file a complaint and follow any recommendations
- **Notify the content to the specific service** (e.g. in the app) **and take it down from the device’s storage**, if necessary in consultation with the police
- **Seek advice and help** if you are emotionally distressed or feeling insecure (e.g. via “Nummer gegen Kummer” or “Hilfe-Telefon Sexueller Missbrauch”)

And how do the hotlines in Germany actually deal with my report?

- All reports are individually examined on a legal basis.
- The German hotlines immediately report depictions of abuse to the responsible law enforcement agencies – directly to the German Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) or via the worldwide network of Internet hotlines (INHOPE).
- The hotlines inform the responsible hosting, platform or other service providers so that illegal content can be taken down as quickly as possible.

An action on the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse by: