

Information sheet

Use of children's devices

Children and young people can be both directly and indirectly affected by technology facilitated abuse. Children's devices can be used by a parent as a tool to gather information. Perpetrators may subject a child to threatening, coercive, and controlling behaviours. Perpetrators often use various harmful tactics to deliberately undermine, manipulate and damage the mother-child relationship.

Overview

You will watch a short video to explore the topic of the use of children's devices and use the questions provided to reflect on it.

Objectives

- Understand the impact that using a child's device to continue to perpetrate abuse can have.
- Understand the personal, social, and legal impacts of this.
- Know where to get help and support.



Background to the story

Mina is 35 years old. She has a 15-year-old daughter and a 16-year-old son. Mina is separated from her husband, Abdul. Abdul is 37 years old and there is an AVO against him. Mina is supported by a caseworker.

 **Mina's story**
youtu.be/eKri2sLfsR8

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Scene 1 - Talking to Dad

Issy and Ali have moved away from their father, Abdul, and live with their mother, Mina. Issy is on the phone to Abdul and he is asking her to turn her video on. Mina has asked Issy and Ali not to do this (for safety). Ali turns the video on and shows Abdul where they live. Issy is upset by this, as is Mina when she gets home. Abdul rewards Ali for showing him their new place and tells Ali he will get him a new phone and tells Issy he will stop paying for hers if she doesn't show him what he asks.

Q 1: What do you think is happening here?

Reflection:

What is happening here? Is this acceptable? Does a father have a right to know where his children are? Is the father right to promise a phone when Abdul obeys him?

Q 2: What could be the impacts of Abdul showing the room to their father?

Reflection:

Consider what might happen if their father knows where they live. How might children be affected by the need to not disclose information, and what might happen if/when it is disclosed? What might be a safety consideration here for the mother and for the children?

Q 3: What roles do men and boys play in this situation?

Reflection:

What are some ways men and boys can be involved in discussions around the impact of domestic and family violence on children and families? What are the power dynamics and how are these addressed?

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Scene 2 - Talking to the caseworker

Mina is on the phone to her social worker. Mina is worried about their safety and the threats that Abdul is making to the children. Mina's social worker suggests she come and talk to the children about why it is important to be safe with their devices.

Q 1: How do you think Mina is feeling?

Reflection:

Consider how Mina may be feeling. Think about feelings of fear, powerlessness, or helplessness.

Q 2: What can Mina do to assist her children to understand and to support them from the impacts DFV/TFA?

Reflection:

Consider what might happen if their father knows where they live. How might children be affected by the need to not disclose information, and what might happen if/when it is disclosed. What might be a safety consideration here for the mother and for the children?

Q 3: What are some protective factors Mina is using and how is her ex-husband affecting these? How is this impacting Mina's relationship with her children?

Reflection:

Discuss the strategies and tools used by Mina (e.g. moving, talking to the children) as well as the tools used by the ex-husband to try and circumvent these strategies. Consider if and how Abdul is deliberately trying to undermine, manipulate and damage the mother-child relationship.

Support services

1800RESPECT

1800RESPECT is available for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to support people impacted by domestic, family or sexual violence. They provide confidential information, counselling and support.

Contact details:

W: www.1800respect.org.au

P: 1800 737 732

Adira NSW Multicultural Centre for Women's and Family Safety

Adira supports effective, culturally responsive safety services for migrant and refugee women, children and families. They provide collaborative case management as well as referral pathways for specialist support.

Contact details:

W: www.safetycentre@ssi.org.au

P: 02 8111 7077

eSafety Commissioner

eSafety is Australia's independent regulator for online safety. They educate Australians about online safety risks and help to remove harmful content such as cyberbullying of children, adult cyber abuse and intimate images or videos shared without consent.

Contact details:

W: www.esafety.gov.au

NSW Police Force

If you believe you are experiencing technology-facilitated abuse — such as stalking, intimidation, or image-based abuse — you can report it to your local police.

In an emergency, call 000.

Support services

Wesnet

Wesnet provides relief and support to women and children experiencing domestic and family violence, intimate partner violence and other forms of gender-based violence. They provide material relief to women and children as well as educational resources and advice to women and children to increase their safety.

Contact details:

E: wesnet@wesnet.org.au

P: 1800 937 638

Immigrant Women's SpeakOut

Immigrant Women's SpeakOut is a key organisation for migrant and refugee women within NSW supporting women subjected to domestic and family violence or who are at risk of homelessness due to violence or abuse. Immigrant Women's SpeakOut provides information, guidance and other direct services.

Contact details:

W: www.speakout.org.au

P: 02 9635 8022

Women's Legal Services NSW

Women's Legal Service NSW (WLS NSW) is a community legal centre providing women across NSW with a range of free legal services, with specialist legal services relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, family law, discrimination, victims support, child protection, human rights and access to justice.

Contact details:

W: www.wlsnsw.org.au

P: Domestic Violence Legal Advice Line:
02 8745 6999

Muslim Women Australia

Muslim Women Australia offers a wide range of services including settlement support for newly arrived migrants and refugees, community development programs, financial counselling, legal aid, and specific support for domestic violence and homelessness through their service, Linking Hearts.

Contact details:

W: www.mwa.org.au

P: 02 9750 6916
