

# Self-Generated Indecent Images – Online Removal and Advice.

The rapid growth of social media and the everyday use of smartphones has seen an increase in the number of child victims who are groomed into providing indecent images of themselves which can then go on to be shared online. The sharing of these images and the inability to get them removed from the internet can cause immeasurable distress to those involved.

The NCA has worked together with the NSPCC, Home Office and Internet Watch Foundation to come up with a process whereby children can report self-generated indecent images of themselves in order for those images to be removed from the internet.

This process cannot be guaranteed to remove 100% of images but it is a method of harm reduction which may limit the spread of the images online.

The process does not take away the need for any crime recording or investigation and that should continue as normal. It is a process to highlight the images via a mathematical process called “hashing” which will enable tech companies to remove the images.

The images will also be added to the national database of child abuse images to enable identification of any other persons in possession of the images.

## **The process is as follows:**

1. The child creates a [Childline](#) account and signs into Childline. From within the account they can speak to a Childline counsellor and get support.
2. The child verifies their age online. Currently an application called YOTI is used. YOTI is a digital identity application built into the process. It requires the child to upload an image of an approved ID method such as passport or (provisional) driver licence in order to confirm they are a child.
3. An online form is located within the Childline account to report any self-generated images.
4. The images are identified by the Internet Watch Foundation and highlighted to the appropriate tech companies for removal.

**Please advise victims to use this process whenever applicable.**

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>