

**HARASSMENT,
HARMFUL
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RELATED
OFFENCES ACT 2020**



COCO'S LAW

EXPLAINED

Coco's Law creates two new offences which criminalise the non-consensual distribution of intimate images:



1. It is an offence to distribute or publish intimate images of a person, without consent and with intent to cause harm. Penalties include an unlimited fine and/or 7 years imprisonment.

2. It is an offence to take, distribute or publish intimate images of a person without consent even if there is no specific intent to cause harm. Penalties include a maximum fine of €5,000 and/or 12 months' imprisonment.

Importantly, this applies even if the person initially gave consent for the picture to be taken, but they were later shared with other people without their consent.



It is an offence to distribute, publish or send any threatening or grossly offensive communication about or to another person, with intent to cause harm. Penalties include a fine and/or a maximum sentence of up to 2 years in prison



COCO'S LAW



KEY WORDS

CONSENT

permission for something to happen or agreement to do something.

GENITALS

The sexual organs; the testicles, penis and vulva



INTIMATE IMAGE

- (a) of what is, or pretends to be the person's genitals, buttocks or anal region and, in the case of a female, her breasts,
- (b) of the underwear covering the person's genitals, buttocks or anal region and, in the case of a female, her breasts,
- c) in which the person is nude, or
- (d) in which the person is engaged in sexual activity.

SEXTING

Sending, receiving or forwarding of images, videos & text that are sexually explicit.



CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(also referred to as child sexual abuse images) can be described as the depiction of children & young people (under 18) in a sexually explicit manner in images, videos or in written text.

COERCION

means to persuade someone to do something by using force or threats.