



Harassment or Threatening Messages

Overview

Messages can be deleted, edited or hidden. Preserving the original context and identifiers early can make later review much more reliable.

Act quickly

If there is an immediate risk of violence, stalking or harm, contact the police or emergency services and follow their safety advice.

What to do now

01 Prioritise safety

If there is an immediate threat, contact the police or emergency services.

02 Preserve full conversations

Keep the thread, dates, times, account names, numbers and surrounding context.

03 Capture account identifiers

Save profile URLs, usernames, phone numbers and other visible identifiers.

04 Keep originals

Where possible, retain messages on the original device or account rather than only copying text elsewhere.

05 Record a timeline

Note dates, escalation, contact attempts and any offline events connected to the messages.

06 Preserve related media

Keep voice notes, images, videos, attachments and missed-call records.



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What not to do

- ! Do not edit screenshots or crop away dates, usernames or surrounding context.
- ! Do not delete or clear conversations after taking a few screenshots.
- ! Do not provoke further contact simply to obtain more evidence.
- ! Do not publicly repost sensitive material if doing so could increase risk or affect an investigation.

Evidence to preserve

- ✓ Full message threads
- ✓ Profile or account URLs
- ✓ Phone numbers and usernames
- ✓ Voice notes and attachments
- ✓ Call history and voicemail
- ✓ Dates, times and a written chronology
- ✓ Screenshots plus the original data where available

Before speaking to a forensic specialist

Keep the original device or account available, avoid unnecessary changes, write down the sequence of events while it is fresh, and explain any containment or recovery actions already taken. The more complete the context, the easier it is to assess what evidence may still be available.

Need help now?

Digital Forensics can assist with evidence preservation, forensic examination and clear reporting.

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