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Distribution of False Information

Now

First, make sure you:

- Secure your physical safety
 - Consider: Call 911, move location if feel unsafe, tell a friend
- Complete a threat assessment to understand your risk level
 - Determine if the statement qualifies as a form of defamation (i.e. slander, libel)
- Save properly before deleting posts and communication
- Consider telling someone you trust for help

Next

Then, choose what to do:

- Write down why the statement constitutes defamation and assess damages
- Send email or message requesting removal of information and/or retraction
 - Consider asking an ally to help you manage communication/responses
- Identify who else the published information might impact
 - Decide if and how to communicate with them
- Tell your employer if the information threatens your job
- Decide whether to post a public response to the claim(s)

Also, choose what to do:

- Consider doing the following:
- Request removal of claim(s) from:
 - Websites
 - Social media platforms
 - Search Engines
- Obtain legal assistance
- Secure your financial, social, email, and other personal accounts

- ❑ Save and print any communication related to your case and/or the postings
 - Includes items from the police, search engines, sites, publishers, etc.
 - Avoid uploading private information into public archiving spaces

Consider

- ❑ Request removal of your personal information from people-finder sites
- ❑ Hire an attorney to help you take legal action, such as:
 - Sending a demand, cease and desist, or threat letter to the perpetrator or website
 - Request for settlement, trial or litigation
- ❑ If you don't know who made the posts, attempt to uncover their identity
 - Request police to file evidence preservation request to website
 - File an action
 - Subpoena served for host website or ISP (for IP, PII)
 - Hire a lawyer or investigator
- ❑ To increase security/restore reputation:
 - Increase digital security precautions
 - Monitor mentions and set Google alerts
 - Manage SEO
 - Request takedown of other related information
 - Generate positive content
 - Contact ISP, credit bureaus, or other third parties
 - Hire paid reputational services