

onlinesos.org

Distribution of False Information

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-irst,	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	
Γhen	choose what to do:
۵	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