

SNAPCHAT



Snapchat is an application which is free to download on iOS and Android devices that allows users to send images and videos 'snaps' to each other.

How does it work?

The receiver of the 'snap' can view it for up to 10 seconds (depending on what time the sender sets). After the allocated time the 'snap' will then 'dissolve'. If the receiver screenshots the snap the sender will be notified. Keep in mind there are ways around this ensuring that the sender doesn't get notified if a screen shot is taken, so keep in mind that nothing is private on Snapchat and everything is easily retrievable.

Concerns

Snapchat is the number one application used for 'sexting' or 'sending nudes' between underage people. Users must be mindful of the social and legal consequences of sending images like these. If the user is under 18 years old it is illegal for them to produce or possess these types of images. It is classed as child abuse images.

Child abuse pictures are illegal if they are:

- asked for;
- taken;
- received and kept; or
- sent, posted or passed around

These actions are a crime even if the picture is only of you, your boyfriend / girlfriend or someone else who says it's ok. Even if a picture is not child abuse material, asking for or sending a nude / sexy photo can be an indecent act and this is a crime. The maximum penalties for child abuse material can be up to 15 years in jail and being placed on the sex offender register. The maximum penalty for an act of indecency is 2 years in jail if the person in the picture is under 16. If the person is over 16, the maximum penalty is 18 months in jail. (http://www.lawstuff.org.au/nsw_law/topics/Sexting)

Privacy

Privacy settings that are available within Snapchat are the ability to restrict who can send a user photos or videos, 'snaps'. This can be enabled by going into the Settings menu, select 'Who can send me snaps', then select 'My friends'. This will ensure only people the user knows will be able to connect with them via the application. It is important to read the Snapchat privacy policy as it provides information about how the images and videos are stored and used. Users need to be aware that Snapchat has the right to reproduce, modify and republish photos and videos, and save them to the Snapchat servers, particularly in relation to the 'Live Story' feature.

Snap Map

The feature is designed to help friends meet up or attend events together. This could be abused by others or used to track users. It shows exactly where the user is at all times and exactly what they're doing i.e driving a car, reading listening to music etc. To hide your location from friends, you can turn on 'ghost mode' in Snap Map.

To do this, pinch the screen when you are in camera to bring up Snap Map. Click the settings icon in the top right hand corner and set the phone to 'ghost mode'. Then Snapchat will stop sharing your location.

Be mindful who are you sharing images with and always remember that everything on the internet is permanent. Make sure you are happy for potentially anyone to see your snaps.



How to block a user

- Go to your friends list.
- Tap the name of the offending friend.
- Hit the gear icon that appears next to their name.
- Select Block to stop receiving Snapchats from that person or pick Delete if you want to remove him or her from your contacts.

How do I report abuse on Snapchat?

To report a Story on Snapchat, just press and hold on the offending Snap until a flag button appears in the bottom-left corner. To report a Snapchat account, press and hold on that Snapchatter's name and tap the  button. To report a Story on the web from your computer, click the button on the video, then click 'Report'.

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