

LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATION AMENDMENTS

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Andrew Stoddard

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill provides criminal penalties for certain misuse of evidence by a law enforcement official.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms; and
- ▶ provides criminal penalties for a law enforcement officer and a prosecutor to duplicate, share, copy, or display an intimate image, except in specified circumstances.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

76-5b-203, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 378

ENACTS:

76-5b-203.5, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:



28 Section 1. Section **76-5b-203** is amended to read:

29 **76-5b-203. Distribution of an intimate image -- Penalty.**

30 (1) As used in this section:

31 (a) "Distribute" means selling, exhibiting, displaying, wholesaling, retailing, providing,
32 giving, granting admission to, providing access to, or otherwise transferring or presenting an
33 image to another individual, with or without consideration.

34 (b) "Intimate image" means any visual depiction, photograph, film, video, recording,
35 picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by
36 electronic, mechanical, or other means, that depicts:

37 (i) exposed human male or female genitals or pubic area, with less than an opaque
38 covering;

39 (ii) a female breast with less than an opaque covering, or any portion of the female
40 breast below the top of the areola; or

41 (iii) the individual engaged in any sexually explicit conduct.

42 (c) "Sexually explicit conduct" means actual or simulated:

43 (i) sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal,
44 whether between persons of the same or opposite sex;

45 (ii) masturbation;

46 (iii) bestiality;

47 (iv) sadistic or masochistic activities;

48 (v) exhibition of the genitals, pubic region, buttocks, or female breast of any
49 individual;

50 (vi) visual depiction of nudity or partial nudity;

51 (vii) fondling or touching of the genitals, pubic region, buttocks, or female breast; or

52 (viii) explicit representation of the defecation or urination functions.

53 (d) "Simulated sexually explicit conduct" means a feigned or pretended act of sexually
54 explicit conduct that duplicates, within the perception of an average person, the appearance of
55 an actual act of sexually explicit conduct.

56 (2) An actor commits the offense of distribution of intimate images if the actor
57 knowingly or intentionally distributes to any third party any intimate image of an individual
58 who is 18 years of age or older and knows or should know that the distribution would cause a

59 reasonable person to suffer emotional distress or harm, if:

60 (a) the actor knows that the depicted individual has not given consent to the actor to
61 distribute the intimate image;

62 (b) the intimate image was created by or provided to the actor under circumstances in
63 which the individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy; and

64 (c) actual emotional distress or harm is caused to the person as a result of the
65 distribution under this section.

66 (3) This section does not apply to:

67 (a) except as provided in Section 76-5b-203.5:

68 (i) lawful practices of law enforcement agencies;

69 (ii) prosecutorial agency functions;

70 (iii) the reporting of a criminal offense;

71 (iv) court proceedings or any other judicial proceeding; or

72 (v) lawful and generally accepted medical practices and procedures;

73 (b) an intimate image if the individual portrayed in the image voluntarily allows public
74 exposure of the image;

75 (c) an intimate image that is portrayed in a lawful commercial setting; or

76 (d) an intimate image that is related to a matter of public concern or interest.

77 (4) (a) This section does not apply to an Internet service provider or interactive
78 computer service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 230(f)(2), a provider of an electronic
79 communications service as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 2510, a telecommunications service,
80 information service, or mobile service as defined in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 153, including a
81 commercial mobile service as defined in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 332(d), or a cable operator as defined
82 in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 522, if:

83 (i) the distribution of an intimate image by the Internet service provider occurs only
84 incidentally through the provider's function of:

85 (A) transmitting or routing data from one person to another person; or

86 (B) providing a connection between one person and another person;

87 (ii) the provider does not intentionally aid or abet in the distribution of the intimate
88 image; and

89 (iii) the provider does not knowingly receive from or through a person who distributes

90 the intimate image a fee greater than the fee generally charged by the provider, as a specific
91 condition for permitting the person to distribute the intimate image.

92 (b) This section does not apply to a hosting company, as defined in Section
93 [76-10-1230](#), if:

94 (i) the distribution of an intimate image by the hosting company occurs only
95 incidentally through the hosting company's function of providing data storage space or data
96 caching to a person;

97 (ii) the hosting company does not intentionally engage, aid, or abet in the distribution
98 of the intimate image; and

99 (iii) the hosting company does not knowingly receive from or through a person who
100 distributes the intimate image a fee greater than the fee generally charged by the provider, as a
101 specific condition for permitting the person to distribute, store, or cache the intimate image.

102 (c) A service provider, as defined in Section [76-10-1230](#), is not negligent under this
103 section if it complies with Section [76-10-1231](#).

104 (5) (a) Distribution of an intimate image is a class A misdemeanor except under
105 Subsection (5)(b).

106 (b) Distribution of an intimate image is a third degree felony on a second or subsequent
107 conviction for an offense under this section that arises from a separate criminal episode as
108 defined in Section [76-1-401](#).

109 Section 2. Section **76-5b-203.5** is enacted to read:

110 **76-5b-203.5. Law enforcement use of intimate image.**

111 (1) As used in this section:

112 (a) "Intimate image" means the same as that term is defined in Section [76-5b-203](#).

113 (b) "Law enforcement officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section
114 [53-13-103](#).

115 (c) "Law officer" means a law enforcement officer or a prosecutor.

116 (d) "Prosecutor" means the same as that term is defined in Section [77-22-4.5](#).

117 (2) A law officer who obtains access to an intimate image in the course of the law
118 officer's official duties may not display, duplicate, copy, or share the intimate image, unless:

119 (a) displaying, duplicating, copying, or sharing the intimate image is done solely for the
120 purpose of the prosecution or investigation of a criminal matter involving the intimate image;

121 or

122 (b) each individual who is the subject of the intimate image gives written permission to
123 display, duplicate, copy, or share the intimate image.

124 (3) A law officer who violates Subsection (2) is guilty of:

125 (a) a class A misdemeanor for a first offense; or

126 (b) a third degree felony for each subsequent offense.

127 (4) Nothing in this section precludes an agency that employs a law officer from
128 establishing internal policies for an officer's violation of this section.