

Criminal Prosecution Process, Victim

1. Recognize the Reality of the Crime

Revenge pornography is not a small mistake, it's an act of **deliberate harm** and **violation of trust**. It causes emotional trauma, reputational damage, and sometimes lifelong consequences for the victim. Recognizing this truth is the first step toward seeing the situation without denial or excuses.

2. Understand Your Own Safety and Values

Ask yourself:

- Can I truly feel safe with someone who has done this?
- Does this align with what I believe is right and respectful in a relationship?
- Am I being pressured to overlook something that violates my moral or emotional boundaries?

It's okay to walk away from someone you love when their actions show disregard for others' dignity or safety. Protecting yourself emotionally, mentally, and spiritually is not betrayal, it's self-respect.

3. Acknowledge the Conflict Between Love and Justice

You may care for him and still know that what he did was wrong. Both can be true. Love doesn't require enabling harmful behavior. Sometimes the most loving act, even toward someone who has done wrong, is to **let accountability take its course** so that growth, repentance, and justice can occur.

4. Consider the Consequences of Standing By or Walking Away

If you stay, you may face social stigma, emotional strain, and guilt. You may also become entangled in legal or immigration complications if the case escalates.

If you leave, it may break your heart, but it can also protect your integrity, peace, and future.

You are not responsible for the choices or legal outcomes of another adult.

5. Seek Quiet Counsel and Support

Don't face this decision alone.

Talk with a trusted friend, counselor, spiritual guide, or advocate who will listen without

judgment.

You can also reach out to **victim support services**, even if you're not the victim yourself, to better understand the trauma and seriousness of such crimes.

6. Allow Time for Reflection

This decision doesn't have to be made in one moment. It's okay to pause, step back, and feel your emotions fully. Sometimes clarity comes not through reasoning, but through peace — noticing which path brings a sense of strength and self-alignment rather than fear and confusion.