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Cyber- Violence: Digital Abuse in the Context of Domestic Violence Precis

Al-Alosi (2017) explored the negative effects of domestic violence and how violence can affect children and other family members in Australia. Cyber violence includes cyber-stalking, tracking a location, revenge porn, harassment on social media sites, etc. The Australian government is trying to combat domestic violence in women and children by contributing a significant amount of money to campaign as well as many other things. The researcher speaks on how cyber-violence came about and who is affected. They state that men and women are equally likely to be victims, but more so than not females are overrepresented as victims.

Australian Case Law was examined to see the challenges posed by cyber-violence and how they fall under the law. We see multiple case study anecdotes explaining what cyber-violence looks like and how hard it can be to escape. It shows how the case study was handled legally and one case ended with 7-12 months imprisonment for tracking the partner's car unlawfully. More commonly seen cyber-violence happens to be on social media site unsurprisingly. Social media can be used to control, harass and isolate intimate partners. Examples can look like derogatory or nasty comments (or vile pictures). In some instances, victims claimed that their partner hacked into their accounts to isolate them from friends and maintaining relationships.

Australia also has rules against revenge porn wherein one case a partner in a newly separated couple posted revenge porn and the plaintiff was awarded money for embarrassment and public humiliation and money for losing her job. Recently the legislature in Australia is extending its legislation to cover non-physical abuse in more broad ways. The article ends with

ways to combat cyber-violence and how to prevent instances of it. They aim to challenge victim blaming and enforce perpetrator accountability.

Resources

Al-Alosi, H. (2017). Cyber-violence: Digital abuse in the context of domestic violence. *University of New South Wales Law Journal*, 40(4), 1573-1603.

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