

Resource Three

Checking Your Children's Devices and Information Privacy

- If you can, completely lock down your children's phone and set up a family account with all apps that are loaded onto the phone needing your approval. This could be challenging however we are thinking about maximising safety so consider the idea that nothing is allowed to be approved that you don't know about. You can check the app ratings.
- Be very careful when the children's device is on as microphones can still be activated remotely.
- Have two phones if possible. One could be cheap or as an emergency phone for children to take to your ex-partner's home. This is NOT a smart phone but is a phone without apps or location settings that the child can use for emergencies. The other phone can be your child's smart phone which you control. This phone would need to stay with you.
- Remember, as children grow older and mature, they may understand and set the passcode so only they can access it. Continue to let them know that no apps will be allowed without your approval.
- Do not allow devices which you haven't purchased in your home, or if you do, conduct a factory reset on them before they come in, for example with smart toys and computers. There are lots of toys that have microphones, cameras, or locations which can be enabled.
- As much as is possible, try to ensure that your child doesn't take their devices and return with other devices. This is a way of checking and making sure that nothing is coming into your house that you don't know about. If it must happen, again check if you can factory reset them and change the account.
- Information relating to children can be more difficult to locate, however it is possible. Consider opting out where you can, for example with government providers such as MyHealth record.
- Make sure you inform your child's school and providers such as GP, school sports and activities, of the situation and provide only the minimum safe details.
- If you've blocked your ex-partner however still need to communicate with him about the children, you could use a specific app that has been designed to enable communication only about the children.

Gold Coast or Beenleigh region:

Free counselling, support, information and referral for women and their children who have or are experiencing domestic and family violence. Phone: (07) 5532 9000 (9am–4.30pm, Monday to Friday) · info@domesticviolence.com.au