



# Digital Identity Foundation

Erasing Image-Based Sexual Abuse for All Survivors

## She didn't want to send anything.

A college sophomore matched with someone on a dating app. Weeks of conversation, then a request for a photo that she eventually sent. Then, the demands for money, more photos and constant contact never seemed to end.



This is called sextortion, and it is one of the fastest-growing forms of image-based sexual abuse in the country. It doesn't wait for a victim to make a mistake. It doesn't care if she's fourteen or twenty-four.

22%

of U.S. adults have experienced image-based sexual abuse.

46%

of people under 24 are affected – and AI is accelerating this crisis.

10%

of college students experience it during their undergraduate years.

Sources: Digital Identity Foundation program data; Wake Forest University Safe Office; Thorn, 2025 surveys of young people ages 13-20.

## The law changed. The work didn't stop.

In 2025, a Texas teenager and her mother turned their own worst month into a federal law – the TAKE IT DOWN Act – requiring platforms to remove non-consensual intimate images within 48 hours of a report. It was a real win, hard-fought, and it matters.

Now, the work of helping survivors like her begins.

That's what we do.

## Three ways we fight for survivors

### Aster Ellis Fund Direct help for survivors.

We put detection, removal, and support directly into survivors' hands, free of charge and free of red tape. We named it after our inspiration, Elliston.

### The Complicit Index Exposing the system.

We follow the money behind image-based abuse, naming the networks and infrastructure that profit from it, and pushing them to change.

### Research & Education Data that changes law.

We turn anonymized data into the evidence lawmakers and educators need to get ahead of this crisis, before it reaches the next fourteen-year-old.

*"Every survivor deserves true peace of mind. No survivor should face this abuse alone."*

– Andrea Powell, Executive Director, Digital Identity Foundation

Give now — and put protection directly in a survivor's hands.

Donate: [buy.stripe.com/4gM9AMeFS07O6Q4bUE1Fe00](https://buy.stripe.com/4gM9AMeFS07O6Q4bUE1Fe00)  
[thedigitalidentityfoundation.org](https://thedigitalidentityfoundation.org) | [@digitalidentityfoundation](https://@digitalidentityfoundation)



## What direct help actually looks like

We listen, we help each survivor connect to our sister partner, Protect Privacy AI, where they can set up an account. Together, we find out where all of her (or his) images are and begin the process of removal. We send requests, and if their abuse is not removed within 48 hours, we report to the FTC. In our first two months, we have reported over 85 non-compliant sites.

Every Aster Ellis Fund case includes:

- **Detection & monitoring** – finding where an image has spread, not just where it started
- **Removal** – direct platform escalation and hash-matching through StopNCII and partner tools, so a taken-down image can't simply be re-posted
- **Trauma-informed advocacy** – a real person, not a form, guiding a survivor through every step
- **Campus & law enforcement training** – so the people a student or survivor tells first – a Title IX office, a resident advisor, a police officer – know what to do, free of charge
- Survivor-created blogs and advice they can connect to anytime
- Support groups and regular case management

No cost to survivors. No report required to get help. It doesn't matter whether someone is 17 or 70.

## Our Founders Understand Deeply What Supporting Survivors Means

Our founders – Dawn Hawkins and Andrea Powell – have spent more than two decades in this fight, sitting with survivors in their worst moments, and helping build the laws and tools that are only now catching up to the harm. We're a new organization with a mission: no survivor should have to stand alone in the face of their own injustice.



## Your gift, at work

Every tier below funds the Aster Ellis Fund directly – a survivor's scholarship for detection, removal, and support they could not otherwise afford.

| GIFT    | WHAT IT FUNDS                                               |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| \$55    | One month of weekly monitoring and support for one survivor |
| \$275   | One month of support for five survivors                     |
| \$550   | A full year of protection and support for one survivor      |
| \$2,750 | A full year of safety for five survivors                    |
| \$5,500 | A full year of safety for ten survivors                     |



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Unrestricted gifts are especially welcome – they let us put funds exactly where survivors need them most, the week they need them.

Digital Identity Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation (EIN: 42-2919411), incorporated in Delaware. Tax-exempt status determination is pending with the IRS; upon approval, tax-deductibility will apply retroactively to the date of incorporation. Please consult your tax advisor.

Prefer to give by mail? Digital Identity Foundation, 1735 Willard Street NW, Ste 7, Washington DC 20009