



Facebook rolls out new standards

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POLK COUNTY, FL (WFLA) -

Facebook rolled out an updated policy Monday, clarifying where it stands on posts that include nudity, hate speech and bullying.

The clarifications are spelled out in its new “Community Standards” page, which gives users more information about what is and isn’t allowed on the social media site.

For the first time, “revenge porn,” intimate images shared without the subjects' permission, is specifically mentioned.

Under the “Keeping You Safe” headline, Facebook says:

“We remove content that threatens or promotes sexual violence or exploitation. This includes the sexual exploitation of minors, and sexual assault. To protect victims and survivors, we also remove photographs or videos depicting incidents of sexual violence and images shared in revenge or without permissions from the people in the images.

Our definition of sexual exploitation includes solicitation of sexual material, any sexual content involving minors, threats to share intimate images, and offers of sexual services. Where appropriate, we refer this content to law enforcement. Offers of sexual services include prostitution, escort services, sexual massages, and filmed sexual activity.”

Nothing has changed about the way such images are reported. Concerned users should still report the issue to Facebook and a team member is supposed to get involved in the matter to determine the appropriate action.

The new page also clearly defines what nudity is, according to Facebook. Photos of breasts displayed for breastfeeding or surgery are permitted, as long as the nipple is not exposed. A fully-exposed buttocks is not allowed.

Facebook noted they appreciate the diversity more than one billion users provide and said

the new standards were created to help people feel safe on the social platform.

Lakeland Police Department's Sgt. Gary Gross said policies on the social platform help when it comes to handling the increasing amount of cyber-related complaints police receive.

“By taking these progressive steps to strengthen their rules and regulations, it can certainly help law enforcement. It can be very problematic investigating these,” Gross said.

What hasn't changed is the timeliness of Facebook's response to removing harmful material. As it stands, Facebook can take up to 48 hours to review and remove the content.