

Apps for Justice Challenge: Warm up scenario

Student Handout

Scenario 1

Moving past the past

Jay is a grade 12 student running to be student trustee of their district school board. Jay has been an avid social media user and videographer for most of their teenage years. Back in grade 9, Jay uploaded to VideoPlatform some clips in which their friends referred to them by their deadname, a name that was once attributed to an individual (e.g. at birth) who no longer wishes to be known by this name. Jay does not want school board members and fellow students to see these clips and took steps to delete them from their VideoPlatform account at the beginning of the campaign period.

A few weeks into the campaign period, Jay discovers that many of the clips still turn up when searching Jay's full name on SearchEngine. Jay contacts VideoPlatform about how to have these clips taken down permanently. VideoPlatform informs Jay that, as its privacy disclaimers state, completely erasing uploaded clips from its web may not be possible. Users upload videos at their own risk. VideoPlatform's reply includes links to its terms of service and privacy policies. Jay skims these lengthy documents, but cannot find the sections that explain these disclaimers. In fact, Jay doesn't understand much of what they are reading. Jay knows that there are laws for tech companies like VideoPlatform, but doesn't know where to go to find this information.

Questions to think about and discuss:

1. What areas of law are engaged by Jay's situation?
2. What are the A2J barriers present in this situation?
3. What is the negative impact on Jay and their network?