



# Family Law

CALL US - BEFORE  
YOUR EX DOES!



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LAWYER

## Q

My boyfriend did horrible things to me, and my girlfriend says that I can get revenge by telling the world what a cheating deadbeat scumbag he is on Facebook and Instagram, and a fake no-name account means no one can trace it back to me. Is that right?

## A

Don't do it. It is an urban myth that you can defame someone on social media and get away scot-free. In a recent Supreme Court of British Columbia case (Rook v. Halcrow, 2019 BCSC 2253) the judge stated "The courts have recognized that the Internet can be used as an exceedingly effective tool to harm reputations. This is one such case".

Ms. Halcrow was ordered to pay \$200,000 in damages, after she posted on social media more than 85 times, alleging among other things, that her ex was a cheater, had a sexually transmitted disease, and was an alcoholic who didn't pay his child-support and failed at his business.

Ms. Halcrow said she didn't make the posts, however the judge said that the evidence clearly pointed to her. An expert proved that the IP address used

by her to send emails to Mr. Rook was the same IP address used to set up the Instagram account.

The new defamation law, combined with an increased awareness by the police and the courts of the harm that this public defamation causes, means that you can expect that matters will not go well for you.

So - if you do it, you will get caught, and you will face criminal charges and/or large civil damages. Instead, move on- your best revenge is being happy and successful without him.

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