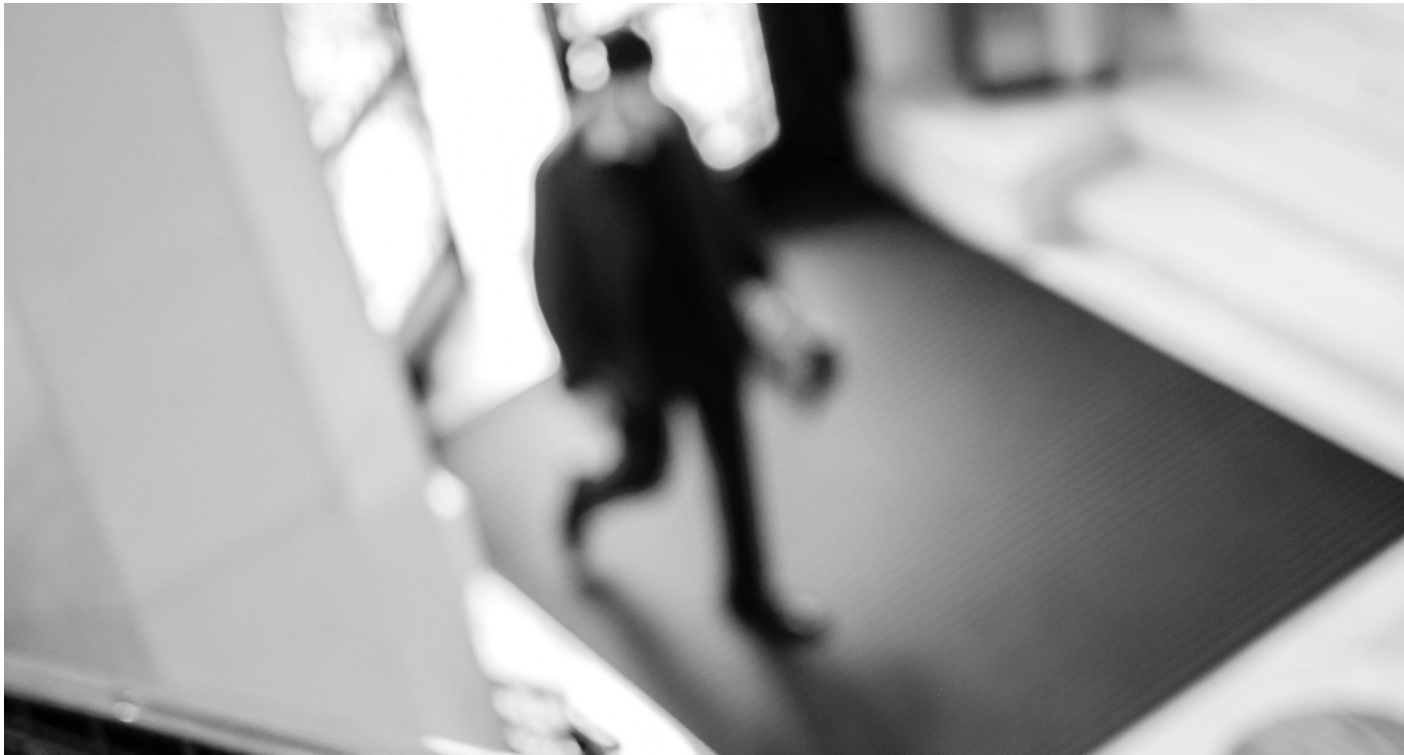


# Navigating privacy and digital challenges when a relationship breaks down



Mishcon de Reya

It's business. But it's personal.

# Introduction

In the modern world, is your private life ever really private? Can you control who has access to your private information?

By having the latest smart phone, or laptop, communicating by WhatsApp or text and sending countless emails each day are we subconsciously accepting the risk of those communications being used against us...or are we just typing?

Would we be wise to listen to the old adage “*keep your friends close and your enemies closer*” or “*there is a fine line between love and hate*”?

# Imagine this...

Meet Mr and Mrs Vanilla and their two vanilla children:-

1. They met at university – Mr V from a good middle-class family and Mrs V the daughter of a wealthy eccentric artist.
2. Mr V is in financial services, working long hours and often travelling.
3. Mrs V is a management consultant.
4. The children, Sarah (14) and Tom (17), are at a private secondary school.
5. They live in a beautiful family home in a private gated community. Luxury holidays, health club memberships, the latest Apple products.

# The relationship

Mrs Vanilla confides in friends that life is not great...

- Mr V can't stand her mother (but who can) and so they don't see her family anymore; only his.
- Life is boring – Mr V insists they stay in together at night watching movies and that they spend weekends “just as a family”. She doesn't see friends for drinks anymore, has stopped going to the gym and always feels she has to rush home from work.
- Mr V is probably right...nothing is more important than family and it would be selfish of her to exercise when she could be with the kids.

# Not that bad?

But on the upside:

- Mr V was worried about her commuting at night and so has linked her on Find My so he can make sure she's safe. Oddly, when she looks at his location it says "offline".
- She never has to worry about money – she just pays her wages and any money from her family trust into the household account and Mr V takes care of everything. She never sees a bill and has no idea where their money is – its stress free.
- They've tried to spice things up a bit lately and she has sent him some photos...it seemed to really help for a while.

# The break down

After a huge argument, Mr V leaves and Mrs V is speaking to her friends once more...

1. Maybe they're right, maybe he was controlling?
2. She wants 50% of everything – but what is that? Where does she start – the study at home? Take photos
3. Mrs V's photos are still backed up to the family iCloud – Mr V sees her detective work, goes to the house, smashes Mrs V's phone and wipes the iCloud
4. It doesn't matter, Mr V will have to give her disclosure in the divorce – but something on that online statements looks wrong

# Navigating the way forward

Just something for the divorce lawyers....or is it?

1. Family law
2. Criminal
3. Digital investigations

# Cyber risks in breakdowns



**Unauthorised Access to Accounts**



Change all passwords and enable two-factor authentication.



**Social Media Manipulation**



Review privacy settings and consider limiting who can post on your profile.



**Spyware and Monitoring Software**



Regularly scan devices with anti-malware software and check for unfamiliar apps.



**Phishing and Impersonation**



Be cautious of unexpected communications and verify the sender's identity.



**Data Theft or Exposure**



Securely store sensitive information and consider legal action if necessary.



**Location Tracking**



Disable location sharing and review app permissions.



**Cyberstalking and Harassment**



Document incidents, block the individual, and report to authorities if necessary.



# Role of investigations

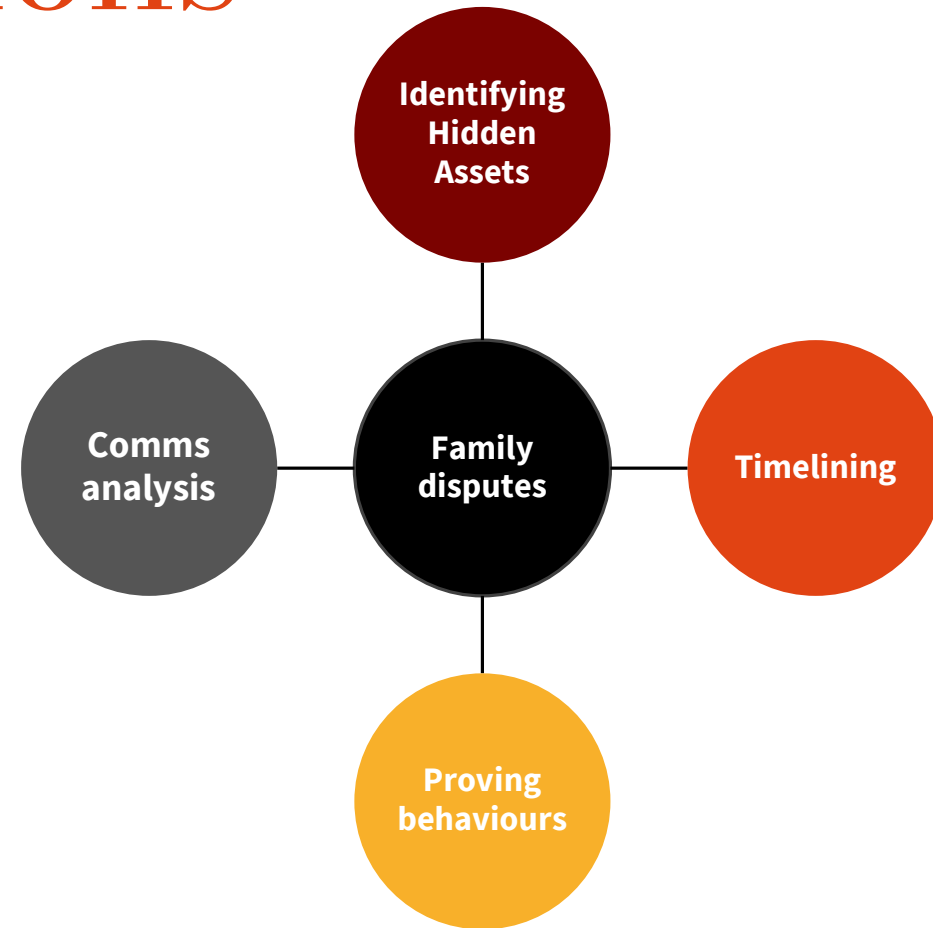
Financial investigations

Digital forensics

Open Source (OSINT) investigations

Asset tracing

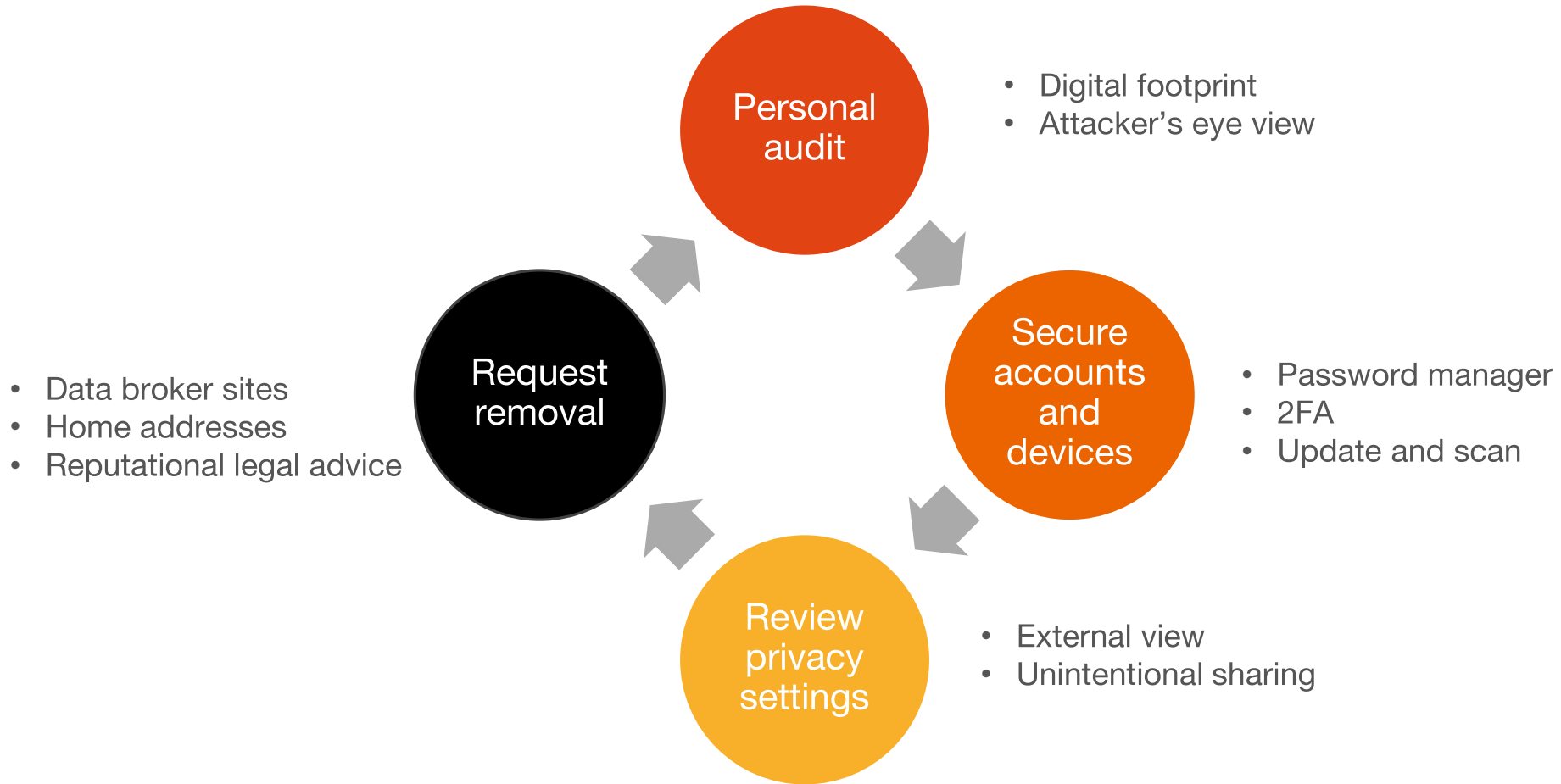
Physical investigations (bug sweeps, surveillance?)



# Unexpected consequences..

1. The looks at the school gates
2. The call from the school – Tom
3. Trying to make life more private

# Enhancing online privacy



# Who we are



**Claire Yorke**

Partner

T: +44 20 3321 7089

E: [claire.yorke@mishcon.com](mailto:claire.yorke@mishcon.com)



**Nick Dent**

Partner

T: +44 20 3321 7884

E: [nick.dent@mishcon.com](mailto:nick.dent@mishcon.com)



**Mark Tibbs**

Partner

T: +44 20 3321 6611

E: [mark.tibbs@mishcon.com](mailto:mark.tibbs@mishcon.com)

Thank  
you.

Mishcon de Reya

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