Can an Android device be erased if it is locked?

Created date	Updated date	Affects version	Fix version
16 Feb 2017	11 May 2020	Mobile Diagnostics and Erasure - all versions	N/A

Pre-requisite for erasing an Android device is that USB debugging must be enabled. If the device screen is locked (e.g. PIN, password, pattern), it isn't possible to access device settings and enable USB debugging.

In this case, the device must be factory reset manually, which also removes the passcode. After manual factory reset, USB debugging can be enabled and device can be erased with BMDE.

The factory reset can be done using a button combination. Please refer to device documentation or contact the manufacturer. There are also some web sites with useful information about this, for example: http://www.hardreset.info/