



DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

CHILD EXPLOITATION
& OBSCENITY SECTION

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CRIMINAL DIVISION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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THREATS TO CHILDREN ONLINE

- Sextortion
- Misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) to create sexually explicit deepfakes
- Sadistic online exploitation
- Commercial child sex trafficking
- Efforts to entice or persuade children into engaging in sexual activity
- Production/trafficking of child sexual abuse material (CSAM)

PREVENTION

- Understand the threats and ensure that children recognize the ways in which offenders seek to manipulate, deceive, and harm them
- Learn about and implement privacy and safety features and settings on apps, online gaming platforms, websites, etc.
- Avoid indiscriminate sharing of personal information, including address, location, school, etc.
- Encourage open lines of communication so that when children need help or want to ask questions, they have a trusted adult to whom they can turn

PROVIDE CARE & SUPPORT TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED

- Children who have been exploited or abused are *victims*, not wrongdoers
- Lead with empathy and compassion, not shame and judgment
- Ensure that child victims know that help is available, both on the mental health/counseling side and on the technological side (e.g., removing images from online platforms)
- Become familiar with resources that can help, including (for example) local law enforcement and resources from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

RESOURCES

NCMEC Hotline: 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

NCMEC CyberTipline: <https://report.cybertip.org/>

NCMEC's "Take it Down" program: <https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/>

NCMEC's "No Escape Room" site: <https://noescaperoom.org/>

DHS "know2protect" campaign: www.know2protect.gov

U.S. Secret Service: <https://www.secretservice.gov/investigations/ncmec>

Online Child Exploitation Prevention Initiative: <https://icactaskforce.org/OCEPI>