

Sextortion

“Sextortion” (sex + extortion) is a crime that occurs when an adult threatens to distribute a child’s compromising pictures, videos, or other sensitive material in order to obtain something in return – more or more serious sexually explicit material, money, an in-person meeting, or access to the child’s social media accounts. Real-life experience shows us that sextortion is an equal opportunity crime; that is, both boys and girls can become victims by sharing just one compromising photo.

How it happens:

justice.gov/psc/video/sextortion-public-service-announcement-90-seconds

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD AVOID BECOMING A VICTIM

- Sit down with your child and **review their friends and followers’ lists**
- **Cover the basics:** no sharing inappropriate pictures or personal information
- Have them **tell you about the people they are following or gaming with** – do they know these people in real life? Do other players say or do things that make your kids uncomfortable?
- Remind them about the **dangers of communicating with “strangers”** – should they believe everything they read? Could a man pose as a younger boy? Or as a girl?
- Tell them **it’s okay to say no** to a friend request from a stranger or a request for pictures from an online or real-life friend – try practicing ways to say “no” to different types of requests
- **Establish yourself as an ally:** remind your children that they can come to you if someone online makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Establish a back-up: **identify other trusted adults** they can go to if they are embarrassed to talk to you

IF YOU BELIEVE YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN A VICTIM:

- ➡ Remember this is not their fault! You can discuss safety (and consequences) moving forward
- ➡ Gather as much information from your child as you can
- ➡ Do not report to the social network site or gaming platform before you call authorities
- ➡ Do not delete evidence from your child’s device; instead, put the phone in airplane mode, restrict child access to any cloud-connected devices, and report to law enforcement immediately



If you know of a child in immediate risk or danger, notify law enforcement right away.

Online child exploitation can be reported to your local police department or to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s CyberTipline.

KEEPING KIDS SAFE
AND SECURE ONLINE

CyberTipline.com
800-843-5678