

PREVENTING SEXTORTION: PROTECTING KIDS & TEENS ONLINE



WHAT IS SEXTORTION?

Sextortion is a form of online exploitation where someone tricks, manipulates, or threatens another person into sending sexual images, videos, or engaging in sexual activity — and then uses those materials to blackmail them for more content, money, or favors. This crime is on the rise, especially targeting minors through social media and gaming platforms.

1. KNOW THE SIGNS

- Unsolicited friend requests or DMs from strangers
- Quick escalation of conversations into personal or sexual topics
- Requests for secrecy (“Don’t tell anyone,” “This is just between us”)
- Threats to share images if demands aren’t met
- Sudden withdrawal, secrecy, or anxiety around devices

2. HOW PREDATORS TARGET VICTIMS

- Catfishing: Pretending to be someone the victim’s age
- Flattery & Grooming: Compliments, sympathy, “special” attention
- Fake Opportunities: Promises of modeling jobs, social media fame, or game rewards
- Hacking Accounts: Stealing images or videos from private devices

3. PREVENTION TIPS FOR KIDS & TEENS

- Never send nude or sexual images — even to someone you trust
- Keep social media profiles private and limit followers to real-life friends
- Be cautious about what you share — even innocent photos can be manipulated
- Don't click unknown links or download files from strangers
- If pressured or threatened, stop responding immediately and tell a trusted adult

4. PREVENTION TIPS FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

- Talk early and often about online safety — normalize the conversation
- Learn the platforms your child uses and set parental controls when possible
- Encourage an “open door” policy for online activity without shaming
- Model safe digital behavior yourself
- Store devices out of bedrooms overnight

5. WHAT TO DO IF IT HAPPENS

- Do not comply with demands — sending more material won't make it stop
- Save all messages, usernames, and evidence — do not delete
- Report immediately:
- Local law enforcement
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (CyberTipline.org)

- Platform where it occurred
- Get emotional support — this is a traumatic experience for victims and families

6. RESOURCES & SUPPORT

- CyberTipline – www.cybertipline.org
- FBI Sextortion Resources – www.fbi.gov/sextortion
- Stop Sextortion Toolkit – www.missingkids.org/sextortion

CALL TO ACTION:

PROTECTING KIDS FROM SEXTORTION STARTS WITH AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION. SHARE THIS RESOURCE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY, SCHOOLS, AND FAMILIES SO WE CAN STOP EXPLOITATION BEFORE IT STARTS.

