



SEXTORTION



Sextortion happens when someone is tricked into sending naked or sexual pictures or videos of themselves. Once the photos are sent, the perpetrator threatens to share them unless the victim does something for them, like sending money or more pictures. Sextortion is a form of sexual exploitation, and it's a crime. Teen boys aged 14-17 are especially targeted in money scams, but anyone can become a victim.



SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

THESE CYBERCRIMINALS may pretend to be your age. Scammers often try to gain trust quickly. They may act friendly, flirt, or pretend to like you.

IT CAN FEEL GOOD AT FIRST. Someone might make you feel really special, understood, or “seen” in a way that feels flattering. That feeling itself can be part of how trust gets built quickly, so it's worth staying alert even when it feels nice.

SOMEONE MIGHT push the relationship or conversation forward fast, or make you feel like what you have is uniquely close or secret.

SOMEONE MIGHT ask for personal or private info, like your phone number or address.

THEY MAY WANT to move chats to a private app or ask for secret conversations.

A MESSAGE makes you feel uncomfortable, scared, or pressured.

SOMETHING JUST FEELS OFF. Trust your gut, even if you can't explain why.



WHAT YOU CAN DO...

Keep social media accounts private.

Only talk to people you know in real life: If you don't know someone, don't share private information with them.

Protect your image: AI and “nudify” apps can create fake images, even if you never sent a real picture.

Be cautious online: Someone might be using a fake profile picture or sharing fake pictures. Don't believe everything you see.





IF IT'S ALREADY HAPPENING

Don't respond or engage.

Screenshot or save any messages as evidence.

Don't pay them money or gift cards. Many times the criminal keeps threatening even after payment.

Tell someone, even if you're embarrassed. Talk to a trusted adult (a parent, caregiver, teacher, coach, or school counselor).

Report it on the platform, to the Cyber Tipline at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children ([report.cybertip.org](https://www.fbi.gov/cybertip)), and to your local law enforcement.



REMEMBER

Sextortion is a crime, and it's never your fault. Asking for help is always the right move. You are not in trouble. You are not alone.



CyberTipline (National Center for Missing & Exploited Children)

Take It Down — helps get content removed from circulation

FBI Sextortion Help

Sextortion Education (NetSmartz)

1. <https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/sextortion>
2. <https://www.missingkids.org/blog/2025/spike-in-online-crimes-against-children-a-wake-up-call>



Online Harms
Prevention Work Group
fairplayforkids.org

