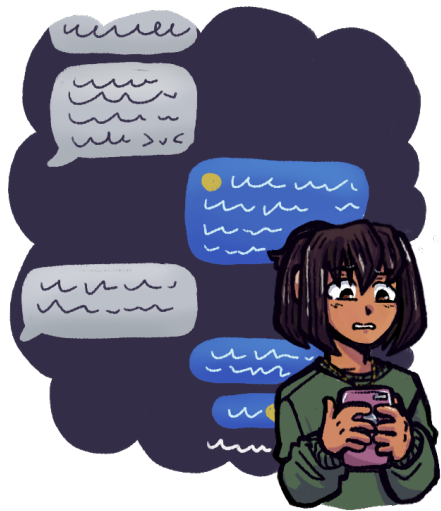


# What Is Sextortion?



- A serious and rapidly growing form of online sexual exploitation and blackmail.
- Occurs when someone uses real or fabricated intimate images to threaten, manipulate, or coerce a person.
- The goal is to force compliance, such as sending more images, paying money, or meeting other demands.
- Often involves minors being threatened with the release of explicit images unless they comply.
- Offenders frequently use deception, fake identities, or stolen images to build trust before issuing threats.

## Where Does Sextortion Happen?

Sextortion can occur across nearly all digital platforms. Offenders often start in one place and quickly move conversations elsewhere:

- Online Gaming
- Social networking platforms
- Messaging and texting apps
- Video chat and live-streaming apps
- Dating apps
- Email
- Online forums and image boards

Perpetrators frequently build trust on one platform, then shift to more private channels to isolate the victim.



## A Growing and Evolving Threat

Sextortion is increasing at an alarming rate:

- Reports to national tip lines have surged, with hundreds of cases reported weekly.
- A newer form, financial sextortion, focuses on extorting money rather than additional CSAM images.
- Teen boys are increasingly targeted in financial sextortion cases.
- Offenders may use fake or AI-generated images, meaning victims may be targeted even if they never shared explicit content.



This crime is often driven by organized groups and can impact both minors and young adults.

## What Does Sextortion Look Like?

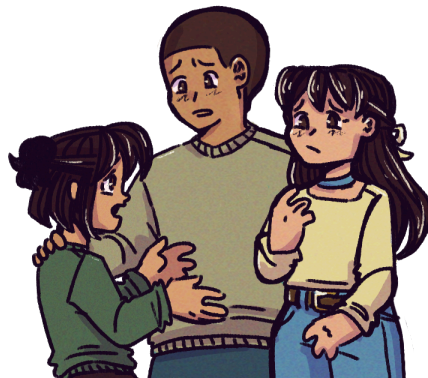


While situations vary, common patterns include:

- Fake profiles pretending to be a peer or romantic interest.
- Rapid escalation to sexual conversation or image requests.
- Immediate threats after picture(s) or video(s) are shared.
- Claims they will send images or videos to friends, family, or followers.
- Demands for money, gift cards, or cryptocurrency.
- Pressure for more images or live video activity.
- Use of stolen or fake images to intimidate.

## What To Do If It Happens

- Do not comply with demands or threats.
- Do not send additional images, money, or personal information.
- Stop communication immediately.
- Save evidence (screenshots, usernames, profiles, messages, accounts, URLs).
- Report the incident to law enforcement or trusted organizations/ platform reporting tools.
- Seek support from a trusted adult, caregiver, counselor, or other safe professional.



Sextortion is a criminal act of exploitation and the blame rests solely with the perpetrator.

## Start the Conversation Today

Prevention begins with open, informed conversations.

If you are a parent, caregiver, or educator, taking proactive steps to talk about online safety can make a critical difference. A helpful resource is the [Internet Safety Workbook for Tweens](#), designed to guide youth and adults through real-world scenarios, digital risks, and healthy online boundaries.

Use it as a tool to start age-appropriate, honest conversations about sextortion and online safety—before a crisis happens.



This brochure is for educational purposes only and may be shared in its original, unaltered form for non-commercial use to support awareness of Sextortion.