

TALK WITH YOUR TEEN ABOUT SEXTORTION

A TIP SHEET FOR PARENTS

UNDERSTANDING SEXTORTION

Sextortion is a form of child sexual exploitation where a child is blackmailed, often with the threat of sharing their nude or sexual images, to coerce them into producing additional sexual content, engaging in sexual activities, or providing money.

PROTECTING CHILDREN

1. Open and Respectful Communication:

- Discuss the risks of interacting with strangers online and sharing personal information.
- Have age-appropriate conversations about the dangers of sharing sexually suggestive images.
- Teach children about the importance of a positive online reputation.
- Discuss the consequences of sending or receiving sexually suggestive images.
- Educate them about the legal and emotional implications of sexting.
- Encourage them to speak up if they or someone they know is being victimized.

2. Awareness and Monitoring:

- Be aware of who is following your child on social media. Discuss the risks of accepting friend requests from strangers.
- Regularly check your child's devices and social media activities. Install parental control and notification apps like Bark.

3. Parental Controls:

- Use tools like CleanBrowsing.org to filter and monitor your child's internet usage.
- Manage screen time, lock app stores, and block unsafe websites.

4. Create Accountability:

- Know all of your child's usernames and passwords.
- Enforce consequences for inappropriate online behavior.
- Charge devices in a common area at night to prevent unsupervised internet access.

5. Responding to Incidents:

- If sextortion happens, remind your child that it's not their fault and they are not alone.
- Be calm, do not lecture, and be a good listener.
- Report incidents to appropriate authorities and seek professional support if needed.
- Use TakeitDown.ncmec.org to remove your child's explicit images from social media sites

262,573

SINCE 2016, THE
CYBERTIPLINE RECEIVED
OVER 262,573 REPORTS
OF ONLINE ENTICEMENT,
INCLUDING SEXTORTION.

x2

BETWEEN 2019 AND 2021,
REPORTS INVOLVING
SEXTORTION MORE THAN
DOUBLED.

79%

MORE THAN 79% OF
SEXTORTION OFFENDERS
WERE SEEKING MONEY.

83%

83% OF ACTIVE 2020
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
AND HUMAN
TRAFFICKING CASES
BEGAN WITH AN ONLINE
CONNECTION.

<https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/sextortion>