



Juvenile Sextortion

Scheme Details

The FBI Boston Field Office, in coordination with the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division, the Office of Private Sector, and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, prepared this Slicksheet to inform private sector partners of an increase in sextortion scams targeting children and teenagers. Sextortion is a form of online blackmail using nude media, often self-generated, which results in the production of child sexual abuse material.

Contact

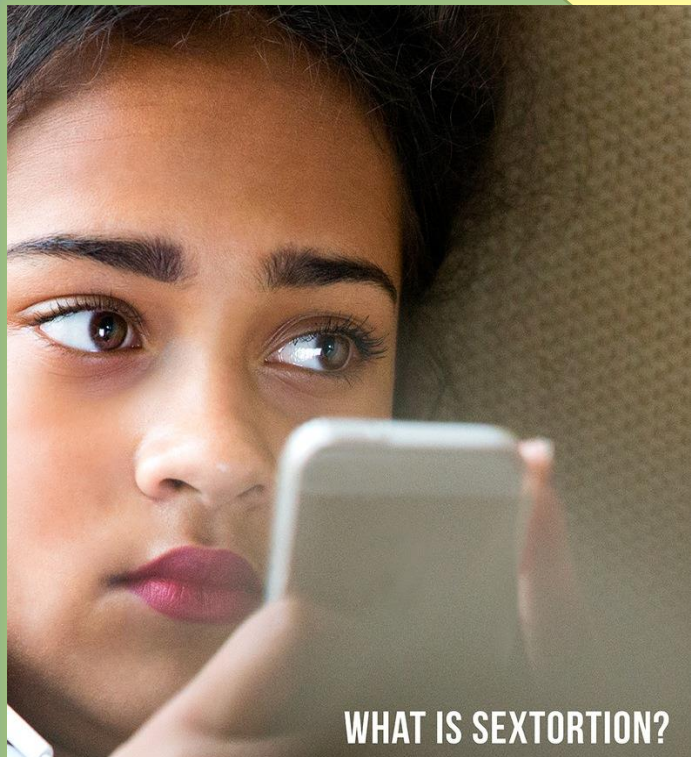
Blackmailers typically create online personas that will appear to be the approximate age of minor victims, and initiate contact with victims through various social media applications or other communication and gaming platforms.

Request Media

Blackmailers often pretend to be interested in a relationship, send or offer to send sexually explicit images, and ask the victims to reciprocate.

Blackmail

Once the blackmailers obtain sexually explicit images from their victims, they immediately threaten to publish or distribute the images unless the victims send some type of payment (cash/gift cards) and/or additional sexually explicit images. Sometimes the blackmailers hack, or claim to have hacked, victim's sexually explicit images stored on communication platforms to coerce victims into sending more images or request some type of financial payment.



WHAT IS SEXTORTION?

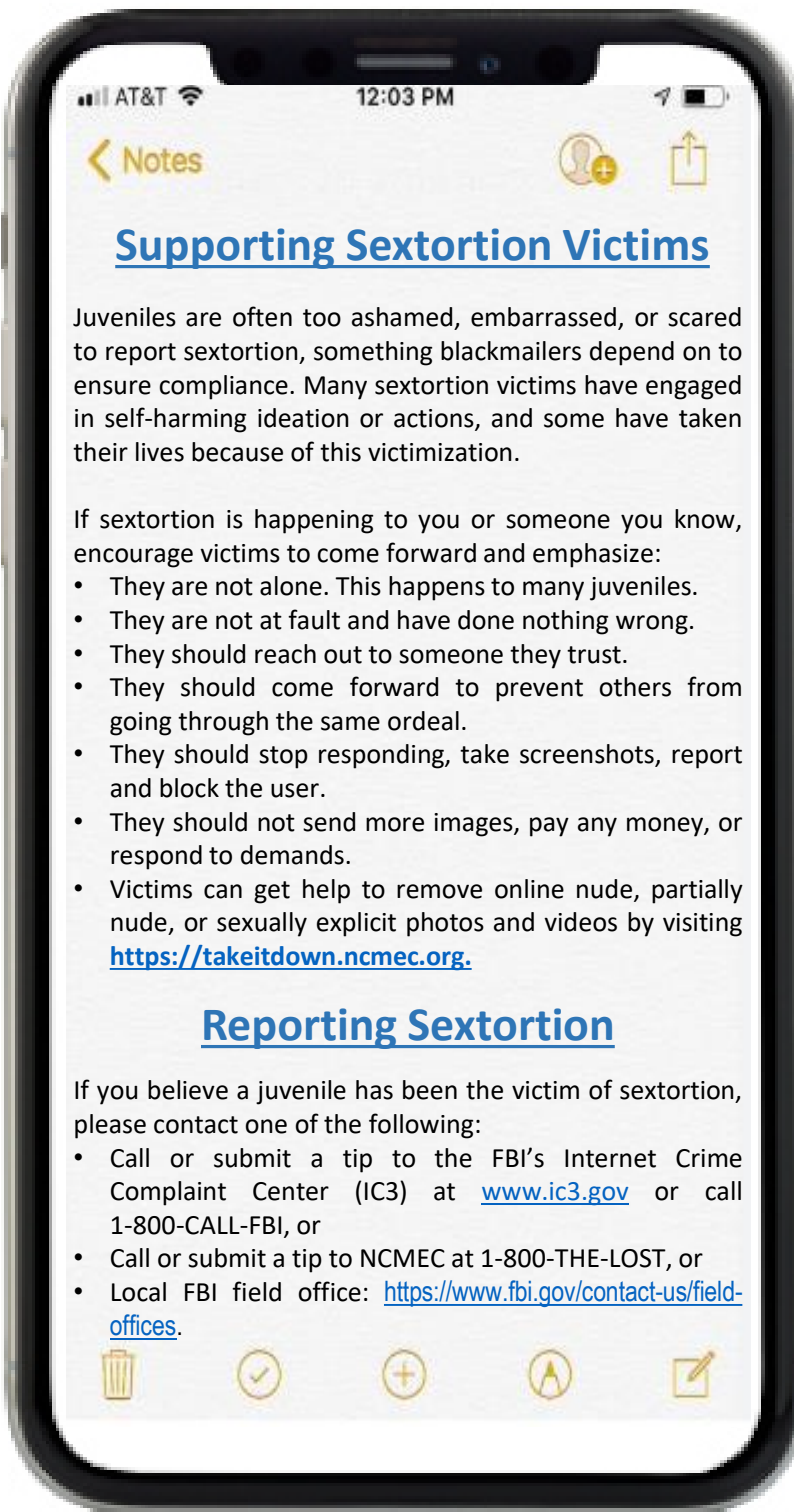
SEXTORTION DESCRIBES A CRIME THAT HAPPENS ONLINE WHEN AN ADULT CONVINCES A PERSON WHO IS YOUNGER THAN 18 TO SHARE SEXUAL PICTURES OR PERFORM SEXUAL ACTS ON A WEBCAM.

#STOPSEXTORTION
1-800-CALL-FBI
TIPS.FBI.GOV



FBI FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Sources may use TLP:GREEN when information is useful to increase awareness within their wider community. Recipients may share TLP:GREEN information with peers and partner organizations within their community, but not via publicly accessible channels.



Supporting Sextortion Victims

Juveniles are often too ashamed, embarrassed, or scared to report sextortion, something blackmailers depend on to ensure compliance. Many sextortion victims have engaged in self-harming ideation or actions, and some have taken their lives because of this victimization.

If sextortion is happening to you or someone you know, encourage victims to come forward and emphasize:

- They are not alone. This happens to many juveniles.
- They are not at fault and have done nothing wrong.
- They should reach out to someone they trust.
- They should come forward to prevent others from going through the same ordeal.
- They should stop responding, take screenshots, report and block the user.
- They should not send more images, pay any money, or respond to demands.
- Victims can get help to remove online nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit photos and videos by visiting <https://takeitdown.ncmec.org>.

Reporting Sextortion

If you believe a juvenile has been the victim of sextortion, please contact one of the following:

- Call or submit a tip to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at www.ic3.gov or call 1-800-CALL-FBI, or
- Call or submit a tip to NCMEC at 1-800-THE-LOST, or
- Local FBI field office: <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices>.

Indicators of Juvenile Sextortion

These suspicious activities/indicators include, but are not limited to, any individual, group, or activity. These indicators alone do not necessarily indicate that a child or teenager has been a victim of sextortion; however, the totality of behavior and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering notification to law enforcement personnel.

- Withdrawal from family/friends.
- Drop in grades.
- Withdrawal from typical activities.
- Abnormal behaviors, such as fear, unexplained anger, or being secretive.
- Increased time spent on electronic devices.
- Expressions of self-harm.
- Unexplained weight loss (likely due to stress).
- New communication apps/mobile payment apps being utilized.
- Increased nightmares, anxiety, depression, or sexual knowledge.
- Sudden, unexplained need for cash.

Tips to Prevent Victimization

- Be selective about what you share online. If social media accounts are open to everyone, a blackmailer may have access to private information.
- Be wary of anyone you encounter for the first time online and block or ignore messages from strangers.
- Be aware people can pretend to be anyone online. Videos and photos are not proof a person is who they claim to be.
- Talk about sextortion, how to prevent it, and what to do if it happens.
- Visit FBI.gov for additional information. <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/safety-resources/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/sextortion>
- Visit <https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/sextortion> for additional information and resources for victims of sextortion.

This Slicksheet was disseminated from the FBI's Office of Private Sector and prepared in collaboration with the FBI Boston Division, the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division, and National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Direct any requests and questions to the FBI Private Sector Coordinator at your local FBI Field Office: <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices>.