



financially motivated sexual extortion factsheet

(SOMETIMES CALLED SEXTORTION)

Financially motivated sexual extortion is a type of online blackmail, often referred to as 'sextortion'. This type of crime involves an adult offender threatening to release nude or semi-nude images and/or videos of an individual, unless they pay money, meet another financial demand (for example, purchasing a pre-paid gift card). Victims of any age and gender can be targeted.

Children and young people are never to blame if they have been targeted.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999

This is a safeguarding issue, because it is coercive and exploitative behaviour. It can cause serious emotional distress, fear and shame. Offenders may continue to target the child repeatedly and also be linked to organised criminal activity.

If a child discloses or you suspect sextortion, then you must stay calm and reassure them. Listen without judgement and reassure them as not being their fault. It is important that you do not engage with the offender and advise the child not to respond or pay money.

It is a criminal matter so you must take screenshots of the messages, the usernames and the threats. Do not delete accounts before capturing evidence.

It is important to report immediately to the platform (eg snapchat Instagram) as well as to the child exploitation and online protection, www.ceop.police.uk and to your SSW and child's social worker.

Once reported, and evidence saved, block and report the account.

It is important that you offer the child emotional support as they may be ashamed or embarrassed.

While it is never a child's fault there are steps that can help to reduce risks.

Open communication

- Talk regularly about online safety
- Encourage children to come to you if something feels wrong
- Reinforce: *"You won't get in trouble for telling me"*

Online awareness

- Explain that:
 - Not everyone online is who they say they are
 - People may quickly try to move conversations to private or sexual topics

Privacy and account safety



- Ensure social media accounts are set to **private**
- Limit who can contact or message them
- Review friend/follower lists regularly

Checking financial activity

- Regularly **check bank accounts, apps, and payment platforms**
- Be aware of:
 - Unexpected withdrawals
 - Transfers to unknown individuals
 - Use of gift cards or online payment requests

Device and app monitoring (age-appropriate)

- Know which apps your child is using
- Enable parental controls where appropriate
- Keep devices in shared spaces when possible

Signs a child may be affected include sudden anxiety about their phone or online activity, secrecy or distress after using social media. Requests for money or unexplained financial activity. Withdrawal, low mood or panic, and reluctance to go to school or engage socially.,

A key message to remember is that this is abuse and not a mistake.

Resources for professionals



NCA CEOP Education – [Online Blackmail](#)

[Help young people to identify the key characteristics of how blackmail manifests online, understand the impact it can have, and how to access help if they experience it.](#)

NCA CEOP Education – [Reporting to CEOP](#)

[A short video for secondary aged young people, to explain how and when to report to CEOP and what to expect once a report is made.](#)

NCMEC NetSmartz – [‘It’s called sextortion’ short film and discussion guide](#)

[Resource from the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children. Use the video to help young people understand what ‘sextortion’ can look like and facilitate discussions using the guide.](#)

[Professionals Online Safety Helpline](#) – 0344 381 4772

[Supporting professionals working with children and young people, with any online safety issue they may be having.](#)

CSA Centre – [Communicating with children](#)

[Guidance from the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse, giving professionals the knowledge and confidence to speak to children about sexual abuse. Also available in Welsh.](#)

UK Council for Internet Safety – [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)

[Comprehensive supporting guidance for education settings in England including guidance on adult involved sexually and financially motivated incidents.](#)

Resources for parents and carers

NCA CEOP Education – [#AskTheAwkward](#)

[Children and young people are better protected with regular, open conversations. Use the #AskTheAwkward films and help sheets to support you – Talk little. Talk often. Ask the awkward.](#)

Internet Watch Foundation – [TALK checklist](#)

[Follow the IWF’s TALK checklist to help keep your child safe online.](#)

Internet Watch Foundation – [Advice for parents and carers](#)

[Advice and steps to take if your child has been a victim of financially motivated sexual extortion.](#)

SWGfL

[So You Got Naked Online – A resource that offers children, young people and parents advice and strategies to support the issues resulting from sexting incidents](#)

Childnet – Sextortion



[Advice for parents and carers about sextortion, covering how it happens, what you need to know, and how to support your child if they have been targeted](#)

NSPCC Helpline – Phone: 0808 800 5000

[Contact NSPCC for specialist help, advice and support.](#)

Internet Matters

[What is sextortion? – A guide](#)

Snapchat

[In-app educational video for Snapchat users](#)

Remember: If your child has sent a nude or semi-nude image or video of themselves and is concerned that this has been or may be shared online, you can take these 3 steps to try and support them in getting it removed:

1. Use [Report Remove](#), a tool from Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation. Your child can use this to remove images that have been shared or might be shared.
2. Use [Take It Down](#), a tool from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Your child can use this to remove or stop the online sharing of images or videos.
3. Report directly to the platform or app that the incident has occurred on. For advice on how to report to major social media platforms, visit [Internet Matters](#).

Resources for children and young people

If you have been a victim of financially motivated sexual extortion, [report to the police](#) or the [National Crime Agency's CEOP Safety Centre](#).

If you are concerned that you or another young person are in immediate danger, call 999.

NCA CEOP Education – [11 to 18s website](#)

[Information and advice from the National Crime Agency's CEOP Education on a range of topics relating to safety and relationships online.](#)

Childnet – Sextortion: Advice for young people

[Answering questions young people may have about sextortion, including advice on what to do if you or someone you know has been targeted:](#)

SWGfL – So you got naked online

[A resource that offers children, young people and parents advice and strategies to support the issues resulting from sexting incidents](#)

Meta – Stop Sextortion

[Advice from Meta on 'sextortion' and how to respond.](#)



Snapchat

[In-app educational video for Snapchat users](#)

Internet Watch Foundation – [Advice for children and young people](#)

[Advice and further guidance for under 18 year olds who have experienced financially motivated sexual extortion \('sextortion'\)](#).

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If the individual is over 18 and in need of support, please contact the Revenge Porn Helpline at www.revengepornhelpline.org.uk