

Sextortion:

<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/stop-sex-tortion-youth-face-risk-online-090319>

Resources for Parents

Sextortion: What Parents, Caregivers, and Educators Need to Know

What is sextortion?

Sextortion occurs when an adult, through threat or manipulation, coerces a minor into producing a sexually explicit image and sending it over the Internet.

Why would any child or teen agree to do such a thing?

The individuals carrying out this crime are skilled and ruthless and have honed their techniques and approaches to maximize their chances at success. The entry point to a young person can be any number of mobile or online sites, applications, or games. The approach may come as compliments or flattery or the pretense of beginning a romantic relationship.

Another entry point is to offer the child something they value in exchange for a taking a quick picture. This could be the possibility of a modeling contract; online game credits or codes; or money, cryptocurrency, and gift cards.

The third common point of entry is to go right to threats by either claiming they already have an image of the young person that they will distribute or threatening to harm the child or other people or things the child cares about.

Once the perpetrator has the first image, they use the threat of exposure or other harm to keep the child producing more and more explicit material.

But my child would never do that.

The FBI has interviewed victims as young as 8, and the crime affects children of both genders and crosses all ethnic and socioeconomic groups. The victims are honor-roll students, the children of teachers, student athletes, etc. The only common trait among victims is Internet access.

Why don't the victims tell someone or ask for help?

The cycle of victimization continues because the child is afraid—afraid of the repercussions threatened by the criminal and afraid they will be in trouble with their parents, guardians, or law enforcement. By the time a child is a victim, they have done something that may be generating deep feelings of shame and embarrassment. The criminal may also be telling them they have produced child pornography and will be prosecuted for it. In addition, they may fear their access to their phone or computer will be taken away from them as a result of their actions.

How do I protect the young people I know?

Information-sharing and open lines of communication are the best defense. Young people need to know this crime is happening and understand where the risks are hiding. Explain to the children in your life that people can pretend to be anyone or anything online, a stranger reaching out to them online may be

doing so with bad intent, and no matter what the platform or application claims, nothing “disappears” online. If they take a photo or video, it always has the potential to become public.

You may choose to place certain limits on your children’s Internet use or spot check their phones and other devices to see what applications they are using and with whom they are communicating. This can be part of an open and ongoing conversation about what is and is not appropriate online. It also may be worth considering a rule against devices in bedrooms overnight or shutting off Wi-Fi access in the overnight hours. Caregivers may also want to review the settings on a young person’s social media accounts with them. Keeping accounts private can prevent predators from gathering their personal information.

The other crucial element is to keep the door open to your children so that they know they can come to you and ask for help. Let them know that your first move will be to help—always. These predators are powerful because of fear, and the victims suffer ever more negative consequences as the crime carries on over days, weeks, and months.

If you are the adult a child trusts with this information, comfort them, help them understand they have been the victim of a crime, and help them report it to law enforcement.

How to Talk About Sextortion with Your Kids: Three 30-Second Conversations

The New Version of Don’t Talk to Strangers

- *When you’re online, has anyone you don’t know ever tried to contact or talk to you?*
- *What did you do or what would you do if that happened?*
- *Why do you think someone would want to reach a kid online?*
- *You know, it’s easy to pretend to be someone you’re not online and not every person is a good person. Make sure you block or ignore anything that comes in from someone you don’t know in real life.*

The Power of a Picture

- *Has anyone you know ever sent a picture of themselves that got passed around school or a team or club?*
- *What’s possible anytime you send someone a picture?*
- *What if that picture were embarrassing?*
- *Can you think about how someone could use that kind of picture against a person?*

I’m Here to Help

- *I read an article today about kids being pressured to send images and video of their bodies to a person they met online. Have you ever heard about anything like that?*
- *Sometimes they were being threatened and harassed—scary stuff.*
- *You know, if you are ever feeling like something is going on—online or off—that feels scary or wrong or over your head, my first concern is going to be helping you. You can always come to me.*

Feel free to reach out to me
 SA Emily Tripp
 FBI Dallas – Texarkana RA
 Main: 870-773-3382

Questions:

What is the typical age for trafficking? 12-17 (As young as 9)

Are children ever kidnapped for that purpose? Yes

Important to know all of their child's social media names and passwords are.

Snapchat- Several social media goes away, but it may not be purged from their system.

What's up has end to end encryption.

Is there a high percent of trafficking in Cass, Morris, or Bowie Co.? Happens behind closed doors such as in motel rooms, so it is difficult to track the percentage.

Drugs are more prevalent here to keep people in the life.

DSHS- Dreka Strickland- dreka.strickland@dshs.texas.gov- is available to do presentations at schools on trafficking prevention too. She is a regional resource in 35 counties. 2 points- Take the children's phones at night, and let your girls know how beautiful they are. Let them know nothing is free, and if they promise them things, let someone know.

Announcements:

Special Health Resources- main number is 903-501-1747 this number will direct to all of our clinics and services we provide.

INTUNE Mobile unit is in Daingerfield on Wednesdays and Thursday for 10am-3pm providing services for Women's health, primary care and behavioral health. Insurance, sliding scale, and payment plans. Outreach program- HIV testing Program to assist in treatment for drug addiction.

Teresa Mendez

Mobile Unit Clinic Manager

P: 903-212-7835

E: tmendez@shrt.net

Specialhealth.org

1-16-23MLK- Parade Monday 10 am parade followed by a program at Daingerfield City Park

NETCASA- Angel Lege- Sticker shock is going on before Super Bowl. Also, would partner with agencies before prom.

Police Chief Josh Hysom- be aware where you kids are.

Next meeting: Feb. 14th

Martha Baker