

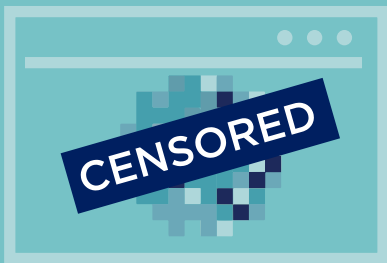
SEXTORTION & PORNOGRAPHY

An Important Conversation



**CRIME
STOPPERS**
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SEXTORTION & PORNOGRAPHY

Social Media

Learn the Problem

Desensitization

Do the Research

Extortion

Engagements

Sexting

Make Proactive
Choices

Pornography

Talk



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*The uncomfortable conversation we
can all feel comfortable having!*

1. IS SOCIAL MEDIA A PROBLEM?

The **FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)** have noted a rise in a crime known as **sextortion**. The United States Department of Justice confirms that “sextortion is by far the most significantly growing threat to children”.

With an estimated **500,000 sexual predators** active online everyday², a teen’s risk of encountering inappropriate content or being victimized online rises.

As young people are exposed to more and more sexual content, they begin to normalize what they see and may even choose to engage in it themselves, by posting explicit pictures or using sexual language in their communications with others. This often leads to a young person sending a nude image to someone – a romantic partner and even a complete stranger – and from there, the process of sextortion begins. Once an online predator receives a sexual image from a child, they may then use that image to manipulate and extort their victim. Many victims never speak up due to feelings of guilt, shame, or embarrassment.



85% OF TEENS DON'T DISCLOSE
INSTANCES OF BLACKMAIL DUE TO EMBARRASSMENT

Adolescents experiencing sextortion often do not see themselves as victims and instead believe it is their fault this is happening to them.



**YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL SHAMEFUL,
FEARFUL, HOPELESS, ISOLATED,
AND SUICIDAL**

Conversation Starters:

- Have you ever seen anything on social media that made you **uncomfortable**?
- What **social media platforms** are your favorite? Why?
- Do you know anyone whose photo has been sent around without their **consent**?

Know what to look for:

- Emojis can be used to communicate sexual content, and often go undetected by parents and social media platforms. While these emojis may appear innocent, they have multiple meanings and can be used to **groom and manipulate** children and teens.

Commonly used emojis



Penis



Hot



Butt



Vagina

QR code to link for
commonly used emojis

2. ARE YOU DESENSITIZED?

Desensitization occurs from repeated exposure to a particular event or kind of content. Over time, our dopamine tank is no longer fulfilled by content that once stimulated us. Chronic exposure to violence, hatred and explicit content on social media can result in widespread desensitization. As we become desensitized, feelings of empathy and concern diminish.

Did you know?

- Online, **62.4% of tweens** and **82.2% of teens** encountered nudity or content of a sexual nature.⁴
- Among kids who have shared their own nudes, **43%** admitted they had shared them with someone they did not know in real life.⁵
- While doing homework, **70% of children** 7 to 18 years old have accidentally encountered online pornography, often through a websearch.⁶

*QR code for 5 ways
porn harms teens*

Talking to your child:

- What would you do if you come across unexpected pornographic images?
- Are there things your friends do online/social that you think are not safe?
- What safe adult do you feel most comfortable talking to if you see pornographic imagery?

3. STARTING THE CONVERSATION

Why should we discuss pornography as a family?

Starting the conversation about pornography can be an uncomfortable one, but having respectful and supportive discussions can empower and equip your family to effectively respond to the unsolicited exposure to pornographic content.

Did You Know?

- **90% of kids** 8 to 26 will have seen pornography at some point while online.⁷
- The average age a child first sees internet pornography is **12**.⁷
- **45% of teen pornography viewers** agreed with that “online porn gives helpful information about sex”⁷

Consider these family discussion topics:

- Pornography today is more unrealistic and violent than ever before causing youth to have false ideas of intimacy.
- What makes discussing pornography so uncomfortable?
- Do you know where to report sexually exploitive content that involves children?

QR code 2022
infographic
teens and porn
research



4. WHAT IS SEXTING?

Sexting is sending or receiving sexually explicit images, videos or text messages using a smartphone, computer, tablet, video game or digital camera.

How common is sexting?

An estimated 88% of the teens 13 to 18 years old and 43% of tweens 8 to 12 years old have smartphones.⁸ Of the teens 13 to 18 year old surveyed, they reported that:

- 19.3% have sent a sext.⁸
- 34.8% have received a sext.⁸
- 14.5% have forwarded a sext without consent.⁸
- Older and younger adolescents receive sexts at around the same rate.⁸

QR code to "YouTube video: "Sexting, What Should You Do?"

When and how to discuss sexting with your kids:

Starting the conversation about sexting before first exposure can be imperative to reducing the risk of victimization.

- Meet your child where they are. Learn what your child's understanding of sextortion is.
- Use examples that fit your child's age when giving them information and guidance.
 - For younger children with technology, let them know that text messages should never contain pictures or videos of people (kids or adults) without their clothes on, for older children, use the term "sexting" and ask if they've been exposed to nude or seminude images or sexual activities.

5. SEXTORTION

Having the conversation about 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 video.

Did you know?

- Between 2019 and 2021, the number of reports involving sextortion more than doubled.¹⁰
- Predators impersonating young girls are currently targeting boys ages 14 to 17 years old.¹¹
- 60% of online victims were threatened within 2 weeks of initial contact.¹²

Conversation Starters:

- Has anyone online ever tried to discuss sexual content with you?
- Has a stranger ever requested nude images of you? Did you feel pressure to comply?
- Has anyone ever threatened to share your photos online or with others?

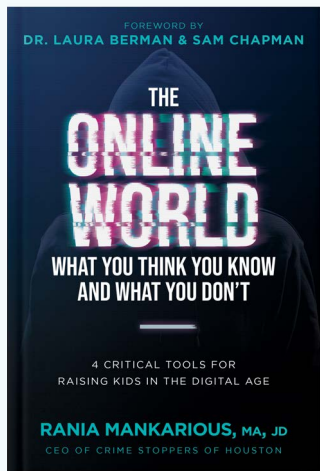
QR code to Common Scams and Sextortion Crimes

Things to consider:

- Remind children that the predator is to blame and victimization is never their fault.
- Children should be weary of anyone who wants them to move communication to a different platform.
- Preserve evidence by saving screenshots, photos, and messages applicable to victimization.

RESOURCES & CITATIONS

- **Getting explicit content removed -**
<https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/isyousexplicitcontentoutthere#discord>
- **Have you experienced sextortion? -**
https://www.stopsextortion.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Stop-Sextortion_Get-Help-Now.pdf
- **Sexting: How to talk with kids about the risks -**
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/The-New-Problem-of-Sexting.aspx>
- **Teen Sexting: Your Kids smartphone habits and what you need to know -** *<https://www.psychom.net/teen-sexting>*
- **Teens and Pornography research report -** *<https://www.common sense media.org/sites/default/files/research/report/2022-teens-and-pornography-final-web.pdf>*
- **How to Have Uncomfortable Conversations -**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUex4W1qj5U>
- **Risks of Sexting and Sending Nudes -** *https://parents.thorn.org/topics/sexting-nudes/?utm_source=partner&utm_medium=Bark&utm_campaign=annual+report*
- **Public Safety Alert on Sextortion Schemes -** *<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdin/pr/fbi-and-partners-issue-national-public-safety-alert-sextortion-schemes>*



A CYBER SAFETY RESOURCE FOR ALL FAMILIES:

THE ONLINE WORLD

WHAT YOU THINK YOU KNOW AND WHAT YOU DON'T

4 CRITICAL TOOLS FOR RAISING KIDS IN THE
DIGITAL AGE

BY RANIA MANKARIOUS, MA, JD
CEO OF CRIME STOPPERS OF HOUSTON

THEONLINELIBRARY.COM

Resource Center

Crime Stoppers of Houston is committed to keeping you safe by providing you with resources and safety tips. Take advantage of monthly safety tips, safety hot topic videos, podcast episodes, and much more at crime-stoppers.org.



How to Report

- 1-800-THE-LOST (NCMEC 24-hour hotline)
- Make a report to NCMEC's Cybertipline at report.cybertip.org
- Text THORN to 741741 to speak with a trained counselor
- ic3.gov (FBI cyber crimes)
- Local Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC)



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