

UNDERSTANDING SEXTORTION



WHAT IS SEXTORTION?

Sexual extortion, or 'sextortion,' is a **scam or form of blackmail** involving threats to share nude or sexual images unless demands are met.

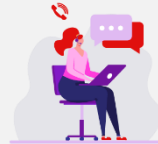
SCAMMERS TARGET YOUNG PEOPLE. IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT AND THEY ARE NOT ALONE.



WHAT TO DO IF IT HAPPENS TO SOMEONE YOU KNOW

This is a scary time for a young person. You can help by:

- ✓ Staying calm
- ✓ Blocking the scammer across all social media and messaging apps
- ✓ Not making any payments, helping them speak to their bank
- ✓ Providing reassurance that it is not their fault
- ✓ Assisting the young person to report the activity



REPORTING AND SUPPORT LINES 24/7

There is help available.



Kids Helpline:
1800 55 1800
(<25 y.o)

Lifeline:
13 11 14
(all ages.)

Westpac Fraud and Scam Helpline:
From Australia: 1300 364 294
From overseas: +61 2 9155 7777



Or contact
Westpac
through the App.

HELP IS AVAILABLE TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE

HOW TO REPORT SEXTORTION



Collect evidence of the activity
(Things like screenshots, messages, profile details, banking information)



Report to [Cyber.gov.au/report](https://www.cyber.gov.au/report)
(ACCCE for under 18, eSafety for 18+)



If payments have been made, contact Westpac
Support: [Westpac.com.au/security](https://www.westpac.com.au/security)

QUICK TIPS TO SPOT SEXTORTION



Scammers or blackmailers often:

- ⚠ Express strong feelings quickly
- ⚠ Make excuses e.g. not being able to show their face because their webcam is broken
- ⚠ Apply pressure e.g. repeatedly ask for intimate photos with face visible

Those impacted often:

- ⚠ Have unexplained changes in their behaviour
- ⚠ Changes in banking habits e.g. small, frequent or persistent transactions that are out of the ordinary

BLACKMAILERS USUALLY GIVE UP WHEN THEY REALISE THEY WON'T GET PAID.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCT. IT'S ALWAYS OK TO SAY NO.

HOW BLACKMAILERS OPERATE



Catfishing - Fake profiles to gain trust.



Hacking - False claims of device hacking.



Grooming - Scammers forming fake relationships.



Using shame to coerce money from a target.

UNDERSTANDING SEXTORTION



WHAT IS SEXTORTION?

Sexual extortion or 'sextortion' is a form of blackmail where someone threatens to share a nude or sexual image/video of you unless you give in to their demands.

Sextortion can happen to anyone however, the most common scenario is typically scammers targeting teenage males to build a relationship to share explicit photos. Those involved believe they are talking or exchanging content with a person their own age. After receiving the explicit materials, the offenders threaten to publicly expose the images or videos to friends, family or online, and demand payment to stop this.

Sextortion scams impact psychological and financial security. Young people with "good" reputations are often targeted.









Scammers prey on the fact young people spend lots of time on social media platforms and create fake accounts often posing as teenagers themselves.








They build trust over time, allowing them to gather more information or gain access to personal content.

Young people often do not report the activity because they feel ashamed, scared, or worried that their friends, family, or carers will punish them if their actions are discovered.

WARNING SIGNS

-  **Something does not add up.** Their online profile doesn't match what you see and hear when you talk or chat with them.
-  **It happens too fast.** They express strong emotions for you almost straight away, and quickly tempt you across to a more private channel, suggesting you get nude or sexual in a video call.
-  **They make excuses.** They say their webcam is not working and instead they send a nude photo which they claim is of them.
-  **They pile on the pressure.** They keep asking you to be sexual and to send nudes with your face in the shot.
-  **For parents:** Your child might be withdrawn or evasive. **They may not answer questions** directly or be forthcoming when asked about online behaviour or unusual or new financial transactions. Being open and supportive will help them talk about what is happening.
-  **You may also notice unusual financial transactions** - which may start out as tiny amounts of money - being transferred.

TOP TIPS FOR A CHAT WITH YOUR KIDS ABOUT KEEPING SAFE ONLINE

-  **Be cautious of anyone new you meet online.** Never accept random friend requests or messages from people you don't know, and never share personal information with someone you haven't met in person or spoken with on video chat before.
-  If you have sent money, or if you are in a situation that feels unsafe - **tell someone you trust.**
-  Call your bank to let them know what is happening. It's important you are honest so the bank can attempt to recover your funds and ensure your accounts are safe. **The bank is there to help, not to judge.**
-  **Regularly check your privacy and security settings**, including updating your passwords. Never share any login details or passwords with anyone.
-  **Think about how much personal information you share online** through social media or other apps and platforms. Scammers can use this information to trick you or impersonate you. Though you may have accounts set as 'private', once they are accepted as your 'friend', they can see further information about you and access photos of you, your family and friends.
-  **It's ok to say no!** You don't have to share images or details with anyone online - if they are pressuring you to do so, that might mean they are not who they say they are. No one should make you feel uncomfortable.
-  Parents and guardians should consider taking advantage of **parental control tools and features**, enabling them to place restrictions or have more visibility over online and banking activity.