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Sextortion



What is it ?

Sextortion is a cyber-enabled crime during which victims are lured into sharing intimate images or performing sexual acts in front of a web cam. Unbeknown to victims, their actions/ images are recorded by criminals who then use this in an attempt to blackmail children, young people and adults too.



**PARENTS
DON'T PANIC,
You are not
alone.**



Nearly two thirds of teens said they or their friends have been the targets of attempted sextortion!

ANYONE can become a victim of sextortion.



Sextortion is extremely embarrassing for young people. If your child has told you that this has happened, that is a massive first step. Reassure them that you are there to **HELP** not judge or condemn.



Once the victim realises what has happened panic sets in and they can feel very afraid, vulnerable and ashamed.

Let them know they are never responsible.

We are in your corner here at Parentline, to listen, support or advise. Please contact us Monday to Thursday 9am to 9pm, Friday 9am to 5pm or Saturdays 9am to 1pm

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Don't be afraid to lead the discussion.-"If someone ever does try to use a photo of you or to get you to do something you don't want to, I will be there for you and we will figure it out together. We are stronger together!"

Top Tips for Parents



1. Take practical steps WITH your child to look at their social media usage .
TOGETHER learn about online safety .
2. Talk early and often about being a "good digital citizen" and treating people like they would face to face and not sharing anything they would not want others to see.
3. Empower your children: they have a right to say NO, to block and report the blackmailer.
4. Reassure them: often victims of sextortion blame themselves. You are there to help, they are not alone and there is always a way out.
5. Immediately inform the PSNI if your child is a victim on 101 or in an emergency call 999.
6. Look out for warning signs and tactfully broach the subject of sextortion.
7. Try to develop their thinking skills to be more aware when a predator may be targeting them.

psni.police.uk/sextortion

www.saferchoolsni.co.uk

internetmatters.org

[Online Safety
Hub- link](#)

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