

Social Media Guide for Parents & Guardians



Snapchat: Videos, pictures, and messages. Illusion of anonymity – “snaps” only disappear if the receiver doesn’t screenshot them first. Account holder can have their exact location visible to anyone.



Tik Tok: Video creating and sharing. No age verification. Exposure to inappropriate language, content, and cyberbullying.



Instagram: Live and pre-recorded videos, pictures, and messages. Easy exposure to inappropriate content.



Facebook: Live and pre-recorded videos, “stories”, images, and direct messaging. Can send and receive messages from strangers. Easy exposure to inappropriate content.



Twitter: A microblog where users can create and see “tweets” that may or may not be appropriate. Other users often use Twitter to post links to their Only Fans page, as well as other illicit sites.



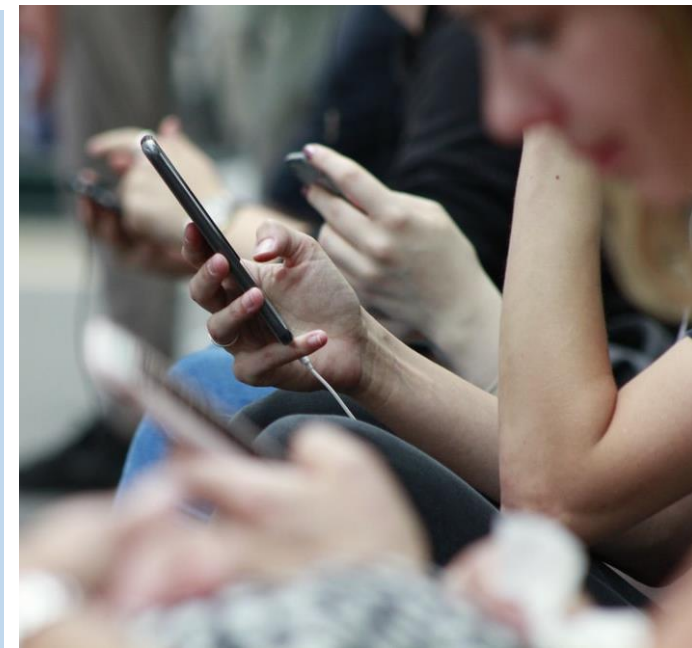
Youtube: Videos and comment threads that contain inappropriate content such as profanity and references to drugs, sex, and alcohol.



Only Fans: A content subscription service where “fans” can purchase largely inappropriate images and videos from content creators. Minimal age verification.

Resources & Contacts

- *For immediate reporting, call **911** and tell Dispatch what the issue is. They can connect you to a law enforcement official.*
- *For assistance, or if you have questions, call the Support, Advocacy, and Resource Center (SARC) 24/7 at **509-374-5391**. We can provide education, information and referrals to help your family understand and navigate the legal process, provide a safe and inviting place for you and your child to meet with law enforcement, and connect you to community resources such as counseling.*
- *For more assistance, awareness, and information contact The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) using their website: **missingkids.org/theissues/sextortion** or call their CyberTipline at **1-800-843-5678**. The CyberTipline is also available via the web at **report.cybertip.org**.*
- *For additional information and discussion guides, visit **https://parents.thorn.org***
- *If you have questions or a suspicion about a human trafficking situation, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at **1-888-373-7888**.*
- *If you or your child is struggling with suicidal thoughts or behaviors because of a sextortion situation or any other issue, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at **800-273-8255**.*



Sextortion:

Awareness.
Recognition.
Resources.

SARC 

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What is Sextortion?

- Sextortion is a criminal act and a form of sexual exploitation.
- It involves an offender using coercion or threats to obtain sexual photos or videos of the victim, and then threatening the distribution of those photos and videos if the victim doesn't do what the offender commands.
- These commands could be sexual in nature, or the demand for money or material items.



How Does it Start?

- Sextortion can begin as *sexting*, which is the sending and receiving of sexually explicit words, images, and/or videos between two or more people. An offender then uses the images they received as leverage to get what they want from the victim.
- Sextortion can also start when people are video-chatting and it becomes sexual in nature. Oftentimes, the victim doesn't know they're being recorded, but they eventually find out when the offender starts making demands and threats.

How to Identify Potential Victims:

Victims of sextortion may exhibit:

- Withdrawal from family and friends
- Drop in grades or a withdrawal from typical activities
- Elevated fear, anxiety, or unexplained anger and frustration
- Psychological, emotional, or physical trauma
- Self-harming ideations or actions
- Unusual increase in the use of personal technology
- Unexplained sense of urgency to "escape" to a different location to meet perpetrator's demands

How to Minimize Risk:

Teach the kids in your care to:

- Refrain from engaging in sexually explicit activities online.
- Adjust social media accounts to "private".
- Understand the potential safety and security risks of their favorite social media platforms and websites.
- Be honest about what they're doing online and who they're talking to.
- To not engage with strangers online, no matter how nice or inviting they seem to be.
- To turn off their computers and to cover their webcams when not in use.



Quick Facts and Stats:

- The average age in the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline reports of sextortion was **8-17** years old.¹
- **78%** of offenders' primary goals in the extortion was to acquire *increasingly more* explicit sexual content from the child.¹
- **60%** of victims knew their perpetrators *in real life* before the threats started.²
- **40%** met their perpetrators online.²
- **45%** of victims reported contact with their perpetrator across *multiple social media platforms*.²
- **47%** of victims experienced online threats *daily*.²
- **84%** of victims said that the shame and embarrassment they felt stopped them from disclosing the extortion.
- **79%** reported that the fear of getting in trouble with family stopped them from disclosing.²

1. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/sexting

2. [Thorn.org/sexting](https://thorn.org/sexting)