

# WHAT IS SEXTORTION?

Sexual extortion, also called ‘sextortion’, is a form of blackmail.

The perpetrator demands sexual favors, money, or other benefits under the threat of sharing intimate or sexually explicit material. Sextortion can also be a more serious type of fraud, where malicious actors use deepfake technology to create explicit content featuring the victim’s face, which they then use to demand a ransom or real explicit photos.

Young people can get caught up in sextortion very quickly. It’s not uncommon for this to occur in a time period of only 20 to 30 minutes between the first contact, images being sent and then demands being made.

There has been an ‘explosion’ of financial sexual extortion schemes targeting children and teens. It is a persuasive threat in which criminals from anywhere in the world can reach children online and inflict serious damage. There are safety and wellbeing concerns for children who are caught up in sextortion, with suicide and self-harm attributed to this offending globally.



***Sextortion is a serious crime and many countries have laws in place for such cases.***

# WHAT CAN YOU DO IF THIS HAPPENS TO YOU?

## WHERE CAN I REPORT AND GET HELP?

### Australian Reporting and Support Services

[accce.gov.au/sextortionhelp](http://accce.gov.au/sextortionhelp)  
[esafety.gov.au](http://esafety.gov.au)

### Mental Health Services

[kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au)  
[lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au)

### United States Reporting and Support Services

[ic3.gov](http://ic3.gov)  
[fbi.gov](http://fbi.gov)  
[missingkids.org](http://missingkids.org)

### Mental Health Services

[theyouthline.org](http://theyouthline.org)  
[988lifeline.org](http://988lifeline.org)  
[boystown.org](http://boystown.org)

**You will not get in trouble or  
be judged if you make a report  
even if you have sent images  
or money.**

**It is not your fault and when you  
speak up you will be believed  
and supported.**

- It is very natural to get scared when you receive a threatening message but don't panic
- Stay calm
- Be aware that cybercriminals often exploit emotions, particularly fear
- Establishing fear and panic with carefully crafted messages is often enough for cybercriminals to manipulate victims into doing what the scammers want
- Wait until you are calm enough to think things through
- Paying only encourages offenders to continue their operations and gives them the opportunity to continue to harm you and others
- Do not comply with their demands
- Stop the conversation
- Collect evidence
- Block
- Report the account to the platform
- Reach out for help, you are not alone.

For further information and support  
**E: [info@carlyryanfoundation.com](mailto:info@carlyryanfoundation.com)**  
**[carlyryanfoundation.com](http://carlyryanfoundation.com)**