

DO'S & DON'T'S OF SEXTORTION

What is sextortion?

Sextortion is a form of blackmail where a perpetrator threatens to distribute intimate, sexual, or compromising images or videos of a victim unless their demands are met. Demands typically include money, additional explicit content, and/or sexual favors. Financial sextortion is the most common form. The perpetrator demands money in exchange for keeping explicit images private.

DO	Stop and sit with your child. The best way to handle the situation is to be present for the one who needs it the most. A reaction devoid of shame or anger is the most loving response you can give.	DON'T	Immediately blame your child and react out of anger. A calm and collected response is the best way to ensure your child can take the best steps towards healing.
DO	Stop responding, but save everything — texts, screenshots, usernames, payment requests. This evidence is what helps identify the perpetrator and remove the content.	DON'T	Delete everything or block right away. It feels like the fastest way out, but you lose the evidence needed to build a case and have images removed.
DO	Report it. Contact your local police and report to the NCMEC tipline @CyberTipline.org or 1-800-The-Lost	DON'T	Investigate it yourself, or pay the ransom assuming that ends it. Compliance rarely stops the threats — studies show a large share of victims who pay face repeated demands afterward.
DO	Monitor your child's emotional and mental health. Don't stop having conversations, and be sure to check in with your child regularly. Often, professional help from a counselor or therapist can be helpful in moving forward.	DON'T	Don't forget your child is a victim. Even if they willingly sent the image initially, the moment someone threatens, coerces, or exploits them, they become the victim of a crime.

- Stop contact. Don't pay, send more, or delete anything — save it as evidence.
- Report to local police.
- Remove images: Take It Down — takeitdown.ncmec.org
- Report the crime: NCMEC CyberTipline — report.cybertip.org / 1-800-843-5678
- Report to FBI: tips.fbi.gov



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