

# SEXTORTION



**Sextortion** is defined as threats to distribute your private and sensitive material if images of a sexual nature, favours, money are not provided or demands aren't met.

Recent reports show sextortion scammers are currently targeting Australian young people through image sharing apps, online games or via random friend requests on social media (predominantly Snapchat and Instagram). AFP report in excess of 100 complaints a day.

Offenders, using fake profiles, purport to be interested young females or males and groom/trick/coerce young people into an online friendship or relationship, duping young people into sending intimate photos or videos. Users then demand money in the form of a bank transfer, online game/s, gift card/s or cryptocurrency from the young person or threaten to release the incriminating content to the young person's family, family, school, and workplace or distributed online. Offenders may even use social media profiles of their victims to make the threats more personal and appear as though they have intimate knowledge of the young person.

Many of these offenders are operating offshore and demand exorbitant sums of money from the young person before negotiating smaller, more achievable sums. Once the amount has been paid, offenders continue to demand more.

## Other types of sextortion:



The offender obtains a photo and alters it to make it appear sexual in nature.



They claim to have a sexually explicit image or video but in fact do not



Obtained images from hacking personal devices



Ex-partner using photos or videos taken consensually during the course of a relationship to coerce



An image or video recording taken in secret either in your home, in a public toilet or a change room

Reported incidents to Australian Centre for Counter Child Exploitation have quadrupled since 2021.

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## Key warning signs:



Unknown friend requests



Questionable profile. Does it look fake or is there something inconsistent/not quite right?



Suspicious behaviour online – are they asking a lot of personal questions or is the language changing in communication?



Inconsistencies between what they have on their profile and their language, knowledge or requests.



Requests to communicate with young person privately, away from group chats



Requests to move to alternative platforms or image sharing apps



User does not have an active video or microphone or refuses to share images in real time.

## Key responses:



Remember that help is always available:

eSafety Commissioner [www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/image-based-abuse/take-action/report-to-esafety-commissioner](http://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/image-based-abuse/take-action/report-to-esafety-commissioner)  
ACCCE [accce.gov.au/report](http://accce.gov.au/report)

Police (000 or Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000)



Avoid sending anymore images



Do not pay any money



Report to site administration and internet provider



Collect evidence – screenshots/name/ id/ Facebook url/ money transfer details if you have paid money



Block/ delete from friends lists



Stop all contact, deactivate social media accounts for a period of at least 2 weeks.



Check to see where your accounts are logged in and disconnect other logins



Secure accounts with effective passwords, 2 factor authentication and unrelated email addresses (no not use your name in your email address)



Secure your profile information and limit access. Ensure your security settings are updated



Speak to someone you trust for advice and support