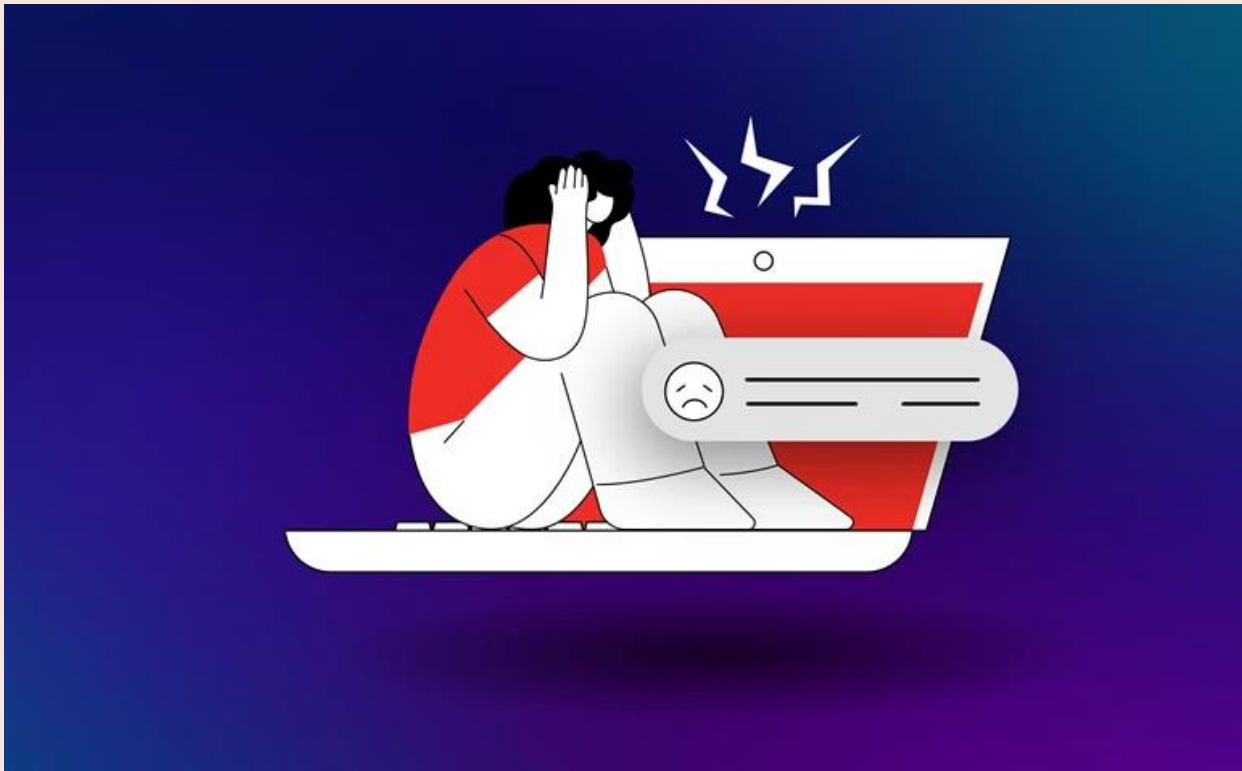


LO:

I know what sextortion is

I know how to report sextortion



Keywords:

- sextortion
- intimate
- perpetrator
- victim

# What is sextortion?

Sextortion is a type of blackmail when someone threatens to share nudes, semi-nudes, sexual information, or videos of someone unless the victim pays money or agrees to do something else, such as share more images.

Sextortion is a crime and can be committed by individuals or by a group of people working together.

Words linked to sextortion which you might have heard of before:

‘Sexual blackmail’ ‘leaking’ ‘exposing someone’ ‘unknowns in your DMs’.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yQ3fdttbUk&t=25s>

# Types of sextortion

**Image sextortion** is where the purpose of extortion is to receive indecent images of someone.



**Financial sextortion** is where the purpose is to gain financially when the victim pays money to stop someone sharing their images.

# Why can it happen?



The motive behind sextortion is usually to get money.

However, it could be to force someone to do something else they do not want to do, such as sharing more images.

# How can it happen?

Sextortion takes place online.

Criminals often target people through social media, dating apps or video calls.

The criminal might get the photos and videos by:

Tricking someone into believing they were sharing them with someone they could trust.

Taking screenshots from video calls or livestreaming without the person realising or consenting.

Stealing them through hacking an account.

Using digitally manipulated images, including AI-generated images.

Sometimes the criminal will pretend that they have intimate images even if they don't.



# What is a 'deepfake'?

**Deepfakes** are an AI that can place someone's appearance and/or voice in different contexts.

It can make people appear to do or say something they never did.



# Are sextortion and catfishing the same thing?



Sometimes, sextortion can occur through **catfishing**.

Catfishing is where a person is using a fake identity and pretending to be someone they are not.

They might pretend to be someone of a different gender, age or appearance, or that they have interests similar to yours.

Over time, that person will pretend to be a friend and might compliment and flatter someone to gain their trust.

**Sextortion** might start by receiving a message from somebody.

They may use catfishing to pretend to be someone they are not.

They may share an image and then ask for, and may put pressure on someone to send, personal intimate images or videos back.

They will threaten to share these images or videos online, or with friends and family, if the person doesn't do what they want, e.g. if they don't send them money.

# Warning signs

- If an online friendship moves very fast and they quickly try to create a 'connection' or close relationship with you. They may tell you that they like you and be very complimentary and flirty.
- Sending you a sexual image, supposedly of themselves
- Asking for you to send them a sexual or non-sexual image or video of yourself, including your face.
- Asking you to go live, video call, Facetime or go on webcam for them.
- Pressuring you to do something you don't feel comfortable with.
- Asking you for lots of details, including personal information.
- Saying or doing things that make you feel worried, anxious or unsure.
- Saying they've hacked you or that they have access to your contact list.





# It has happened to me – what should I do?

**Don't blame yourself** – this is not your fault. You might be feeling worried, embarrassed, and scared you are going to get into trouble, but remember that help and support is available.

You are not alone, and it is never too late to get help.

Tell a trusted adult as soon as possible, such as a parent or carer or teacher

You could call [Childline](#) on **0800 1111**

If there are nude images of you being shared use [Report Remove](#).

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

This is a tool run by Childline where you can report a nude image or video of yourself. When you report the content, the team will work hard to take it down.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwSpo3N6CeE&t=2s>

# It has happened to me – what should I do?

Stop all communication with anyone who is blackmailing you.

Do not pay any money or accept their demands.

Where possible, save the evidence. This could be taking screenshots of the person's profile, messages which have been sent, their username, email address, phone number and bank details if they provided them.

Don't delete the messages, images or videos you have sent, as these could be useful when reporting.

## Report what has happened.