

Sextortion Awareness

Albany State University

Police Department

229-430-4711

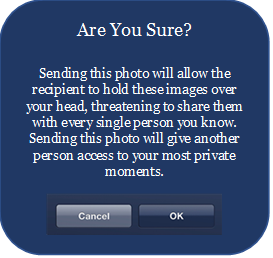


If you or someone you care about is a sextortion victim, ASU PD has resources available to help. This is not your fault. You are not alone.

How do I protect myself and my friends?

Awareness and sensible safety practices online, along with a willingness to ask for help, can put an end to exploitation. ASU PD wants you to know these six things:

* Be selective about what you share online. If your social media accounts are open to everyone, a predator may be able to gain a lot of information about you.
* Don’t click on links, it could compromise your device.
* Never share your passwords.
* Be wary of anyone you encounter for the first time online. Block or ignore messages from strangers.
* Be aware that people can pretend to be anything or anyone online. Videos and photos are not proof that a person is who they claim to be. Images can be altered or stolen.
* Be suspicious if you meet someone on one social media platform and they ask you to start talking to them on a different platform.
* Be in the know. Any content you create online—whether it is a text message, photo, or video—can be made public. And once you send something, you don’t have any control over where it goes next.
* Be willing to ask for help. If you are getting messages or requests online that don’t seem right, block the sender, report the behavior to the site administrator, or make a report with ASU PD. If you have been victimized online, tell someone.



Traditional Sextortion & Financial Sextortion:  
  
Sextortion is defined as an interaction on a social media or dating app (Snapchat, TikTok, Tinder, etc.) where intimate photos are shared.

Traditional sextortion occurs when a victim is threatened or blackmailed into providing more sexual imagery; the predator threatens to share their nude or sexual images with the public.

Financial sextortion occurs when a predator demands money or gift cards in exchange for keeping their sexual images private.



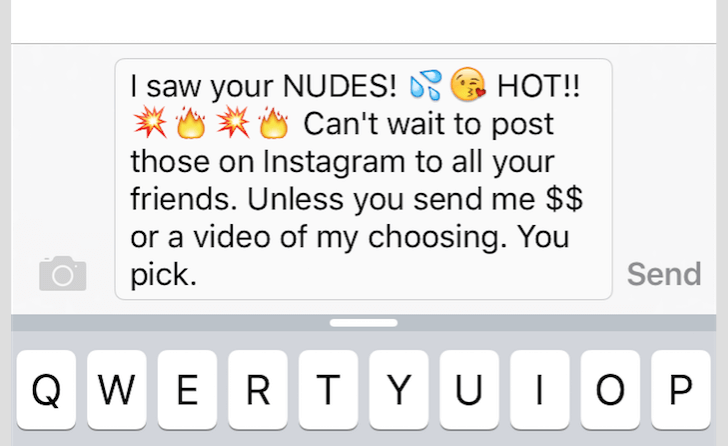
Being cautious, aware and educated about online scams can help prevent victimization. With the amount of time people spend on the internet steadily increasing, now is the best time to learn preventive measures and spread awareness.

What sextortion looks like:

In their initial contact, predators often send friend requests and approach you with compliments or flattery; they may also promise a romantic relationship. They start what appear to be genuine conversations to strike up close friendships with their victims. Sometimes these criminals offer something of value, such as the possibility of a modeling contract; online game credits; money, cryptocurrency and gift cards in exchange for a “quick picture.” Some even hack into computers to unearth sensitive material.   
  
These predators then threaten to expose the material if the victim refuses to comply with their demands. They may also threaten victims by falsely claiming that they already have explicit photos that they intend to distribute, or they may threaten to harm the victim, other people, or things the victim cares about.

These criminals commonly make first contact with a victim on one platform, then ask them to move to a second or third platform that uses encrypted messaging to make tracking their crimes more difficult.

Sextortionists record and preserve entire chats and videos. They may also visit public social media profiles to find out more about their victims, combing through friend lists and gleaning other personal information that may harm their target’s reputation.



Sextortion is illegal. If you or someone you know is a victim, help is available.

For victims: There is nothing to be ashamed of, you are not to blame! You are not the one who is breaking the law. This situation can feel really confusing, and the criminals count on you feeling too unsure, scared, or embarrassed to tell someone. Albany State University Police Department is here to help!

Call 229-430-4711