

# Sextortion

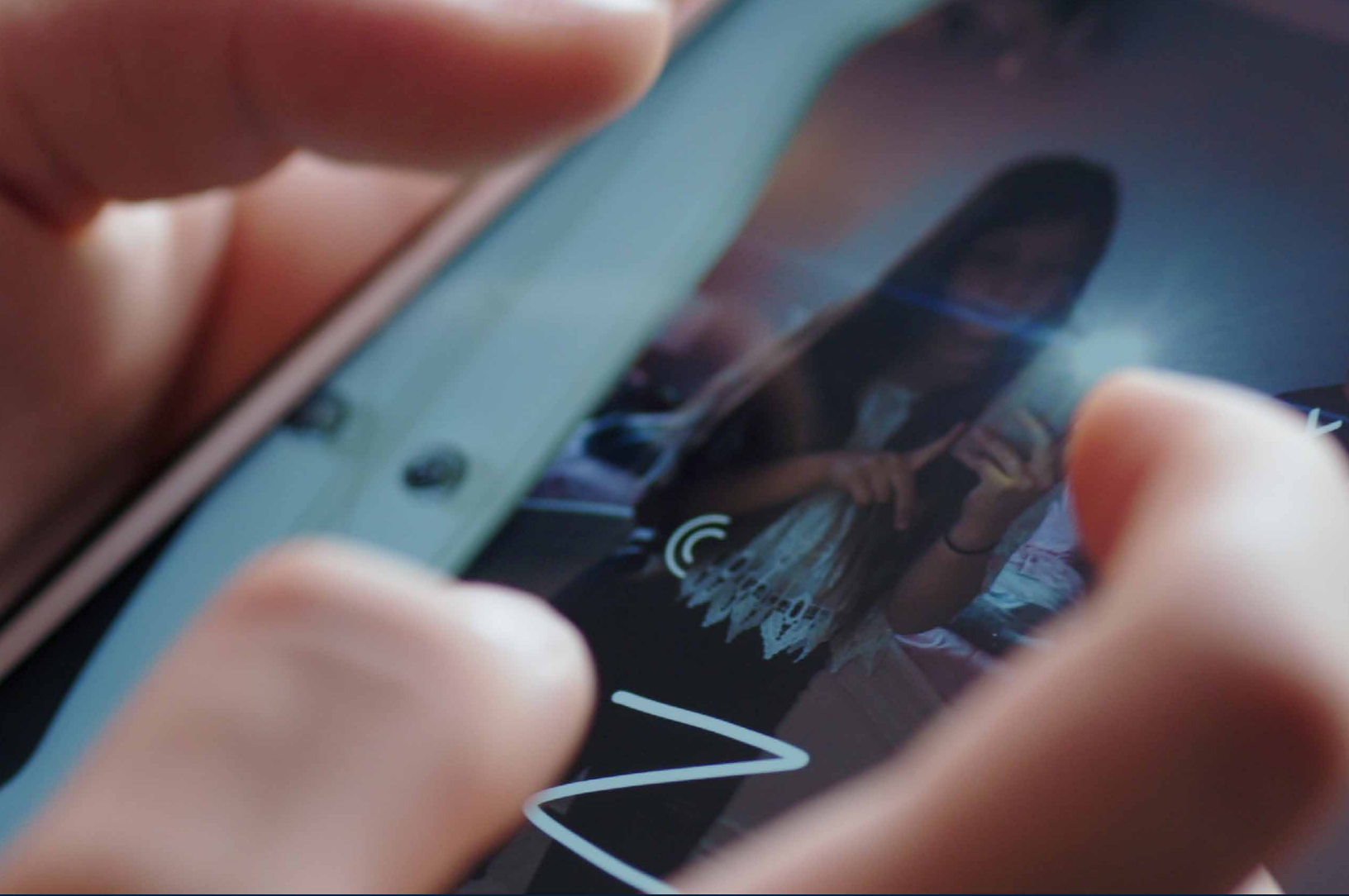
Sextortion occurs when kids are coerced into sending sexually explicit material to another person, often under threat of harm to themselves or someone they love.

## Recommended Actions

- **Keep open lines of communication** with your child. Make sure they know they can come to you if they're receiving online communications that make them feel uncomfortable.
- **Check the laws of your state.** It's illegal in many states for adults to exchange sexual content with an underage child — even if it's just text or chat messages.
- **Document everything.** Work with your child to keep a log of all inappropriate activities. This will be very important should you need to report these events to law enforcement.  
**Be sure to include:**
  - › What happened and when
  - › The names / usernames of all perpetrators and witnesses
  - › What websites / platforms (e.g. Snapchat, text messages, etc.) were used
  - › The content of the messages, including screenshots if possible
- **Get help for your child.** Sexually abusive activities like sextortion can have serious emotional effects on a child. Even if they never had a physical interaction with a predator, they still need support — from you and likely from a school counselor, physician, or mental health professional — as they heal from what they've experienced.

## Helpful Resources

- [FBI: What is Sextortion?](#)
- [Post-traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\)](#)
- [Tips for Talking to Your Teen About Sextortion](#)



## Conversation Starters

- Has anyone ever asked you to share a nude photo of yourself?
- Has anyone ever sent you a picture of their private parts?
- What would you do if a stranger sent you an inappropriate message?