

## How Does Sextortion Happen?

Sextortion can occur through:

- Threats of harm to family or friends unless the victim complies with demands
- Hacking to assume control of a victim's computer to gain access or control the computer's webcam to obtain images and videos
- Misleading the victim to believe the perpetrator can be trusted or is someone he or she is not through false identities or fake profiles
- Use of non-graphic images to escalate to more sexually graphic images

“ Sextortion is a global threat, so children are being victimized 24 hours a day.”

*Brian Herrick,  
Assistant Section Chief, FBI*

## Reporting Sextortion

Reporting suspected sextortion to law enforcement can help to minimize or stop further victimization, as well as lead to the identification and rescue of other possible victims of sextortion.

To report suspected sextortion, or get help from law enforcement, call your local FBI office or call toll-free: 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324)

### Resources:

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

[www.fbi.gov/stopsextortion](http://www.fbi.gov/stopsextortion)

**The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**

[www.missingkids.org/theissues/sextortion](http://www.missingkids.org/theissues/sextortion)

**NetSmartz**

[www.missingkids.org/NetSmartz](http://www.missingkids.org/NetSmartz)

Spread the word by using the hashtag **#STOPSEXTORTION**



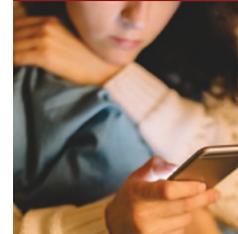
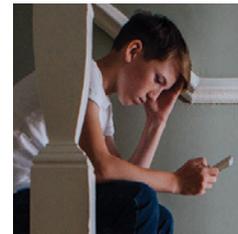
September 2019

U. S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation



# Sextortion

Recognize, Prevent, Protect



## What is Sextortion?

Sextortion is a criminal act and a form of sexual exploitation. It involves coercing a minor using, or threatening to use, images/videos previously obtained to demand additional images/videos that are sexual in nature.



## Case Examples:

**Richard Finkbiner**, 46, of Brazil, Indiana, was sentenced to 40 years in prison for production of child pornography. Finkbiner used fake personas on social media and web-based platforms to exploit numerous minors by inducing them to send him sexually explicit images and videos.

**Tyler Daniel Emineth**, 23, of Hamilton, Montana, was sentenced to 18 years in prison for production of child pornography. Emineth used a social media platform to exploit numerous minors by inducing victims to send him sexually explicit images and videos. Emineth also used threats when inducing victims to provide sexually explicit material.

**Lucas Michael Chansler**, 30, of Jacksonville, Florida, was sentenced to 105 years in prison for producing child pornography. During a four-year period, Chansler is believed to have sexually exploited victims in 26 states, three Canadian provinces, and the United Kingdom.



## What Can You Do?

### Recognize:

Anyone who has access to the Internet by any means can become a victim of sextortion. Victims come from every background and demographic, and are targeted through all Internet devices. Victims may exhibit:

- Withdrawal from family and friends
- Drop in grades or a withdrawal from typical activities
- Abnormal behaviors, such as elevated anxiety, fear, or unexplained anger
- Psychological, emotional, or physical trauma
- Self-harming ideations or actions
- Unexplained sense of urgency to “escape” to a different location to meet perpetrator’s demands

### Prevent:

Have open discussions about the dangers of the Internet and communicating with people you don’t know and people you think you know.

- Warn against risky behaviors – once an image, video, or comment is on the Internet, it’s there forever
- Regularly reinforce to kids they are NOT at fault; they are victims and can always talk about their concerns or suspicious interactions
- Encourage kids to talk to someone they trust about sextortion, such as a parent, teacher, coach, or school counselor

### Protect:

Sextortion can take place through the Internet, online gaming, applications and more.

- Educate yourself on computer applications, Internet websites, and online forums kids use
- Regularly supervise kids’ Internet-related activities
- Use basic security measures on computers to detect and avoid malware
- Keep computer software up-to-date
- Use strong passwords and do NOT share passwords with anyone except for parents or guardians
- Turn off computers and cover webcams when not in use
- Do NOT open attachments from unknown senders

# 5,017

reports of sextortion of minors made to NCMEC’s CyberTipline between 2015 and 2018.

(Source: NCMEC)