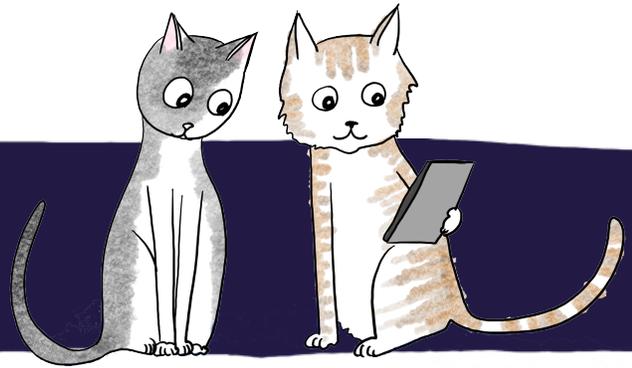


# TALK ABOUT SEXTORTION.



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MY MOM TOLD ME IT WOULDN'T BE THE END OF THE WORLD IF IT DID HAPPEN AND WE WOULD GET THROUGH IT.

- Female, 18, sextortion survivor

## **THIS IS HARD, BUT YOU'RE ALREADY DOING GREAT BY BEING HERE.**

Your children are safer because of your support and guidance through all of life's challenges. Safety in the digital age is new, and chances are your children feel more comfortable navigating digital communities than you do, while knowing less than they need to stay safe. There are a few things you can do to help your child avoid getting into tricky, and sometimes dangerous, situations like sextortion.

## **TALK ABOUT IT WITH YOUR KIDS, THEN TALK ABOUT IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.**

### **01 Be there unconditionally.**

Kids experiencing sextortion are so scared of getting in trouble. They're worried about shaming their parents, that they'll get suspended from school, judged by friends or in trouble with the police. These fears can even be suggested by the abuser to maintain control over them, and sadly these things do happen. These fears keep kids silent, and that has led to terrible tragedies.

Your fear and frustration is normal, but **they need to know you'll always get through tough situations together.** Even if you think they know you'll support them, having these conversations can make a big difference in them sharing their experiences with you when something feels off or goes wrong.

# YOUR NEXT STEPS

TALK ABOUT IT WITH YOUR KIDS, THEN TALK ABOUT IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

## **02** Report sextortion.

Tech companies can help remove images and in some cases remove the threats. You can report both the people threatening you, their threats, and the images if they've been shared. This [removal guide](#) has steps to make reports on many major platforms.

## **03** Mention if age is under 18.

If the person targeted by sextortion is under 18, encourage them to say that they are under 18 (even if their profile has a different age). It helps companies to know that they are legally still a minor and to take more aggressive action. Also, if they are a minor in the images, you can report the images to [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#). They work hard to keep young people safe, and will make the report available to law enforcement.

## **04** Consider involving the police.

Some victims told us that police resolved the situation, but you should know that if police get involved, the target of sextortion could face some consequences too. It's illegal to share sexual images of minors even if they are of themselves. Most of the time, we recommend [learning more about available options](#).

## **05** Save everything.

This probably feels like the opposite of what you were thinking, but keep everything that is being said to the victim and that the victim has said. This will help show someone what happened instead of just relying on memory. Save texts, pictures, videos, websites, etc. You can take screenshots and save web pages as PDFs. [Save everything just in case](#).

