

SEXTORTION AND IMAGE BASED ABUSE



NSW Police Force

Sexual extortion (or sextortion) is a form of blackmail where someone threatens to share intimate personal images of you online unless their demands are met. These demands are typically for money, more intimate images or sexual favours.

The image does not need to be 'pornographic' to be intimate and private. An 'intimate image' means an image (or altered image) of a person's private parts, or of a person engaged in a private act, where a reasonable person would expect to be afforded privacy. These private acts include undressing, showering, bathing or using the toilet, engaging in a sexual act, or any other similar activity.



NSW Police Force takes sexual extortion seriously and there are consequences.

In NSW the recording or capture, distribution, as well as the threat to record or distribute, an intimate image is against the law.

Remember, it is not your fault.

Anyone can experience sexual extortion or image-based abuse, you are not alone and you have not done anything wrong.

What can I do?

If you experience image-based abuse police can investigate. You can help us investigate by:

- Saving text messages, voicemail messages, photos
- Use screenshots and save the image as the date and time it was taken (include the URL in the screenshot where possible)
- Keep a diary or voice notes of incidents including dates and times
- Consider giving police permission to access your phone, computer, Facebook, email account etc.

Do not pay or send any more images or videos yourself.

Stop all contact with the blackmailer

Notify the relevant social media platform

Secure your accounts. Change the passwords for your social media and online accounts and review the privacy and security settings of your accounts.

Do not panic, reach out instead — get support from a trusted friend or family member, or from an expert counselling and support service if you are feeling anxious or stressed

If these images are posted on websites the eSafety commissioner can assist with getting the content removed from websites. Individuals and companies that fail to remove intimate images shared without consent may be subject to legal action if they do not comply with requests.

