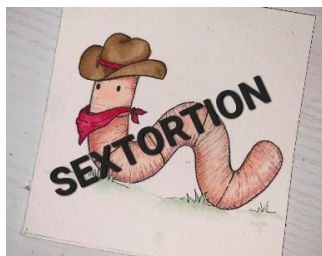


## Sextortion

RCMP issue a sextortion alert warning the public about the dangers of sending nudes following reports of recent “sextortion”.

Sextortion is when adults and youth share intimate images online and then blackmailed for money to prevent the distribution of those images. In many cases, the fraudster will make contact with the victim via social media and convince them to send a sexual image or perform a sexual act they may be secretly recording. The fraudster then threatens to send the content to others unless the victim sends them money or more content.

If you have kids, we encourage you to talk to them about the dangers of sextortion and the potential consequences of their online behaviour. It may be an uncomfortable discussion to have, but it's important in order to help prevent the discomfort and fear that can follow after the images have already been sent. They need to know they can go to a safe, trusted adult to report.



### **Keep yourself safe online:**

- think before you post – information is instant, public, and permanent
- do not share or send intimate images of yourself with anyone - unless you're okay with the whole world seeing it, do not send it
- use privacy settings on social media and keep personal information to a minimum
- trust your instincts, if anything about an interactions makes you feel uncomfortable, end the conversation immediately.

### **Parents:**

- be open about online behaviour, place computers in busy family areas
- make online activity part of your regular conversations
- encourage your teen to take breaks away from devices
- work with your children on how to behave safely online from a young age

### **What to do if you are a victim:**

- stop communicating with the person immediately
- do not comply with the threat, do not send money or additional images, doing so will not fix it
- report to your local RCMP

Resources and additional information on ways to keep your teens safe online can be found by visiting [www.needhelpnow.ca](http://www.needhelpnow.ca) or [www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca)