

SEXTORTION

What is Sextortion?

Sextortion is a form of blackmail. Often victims are lured into conversations over social media which lead to pictures or videos being exchanged, these can be sexual in nature. Once the pictures have been sent, the criminals will attempt to extort the victim, usually for money by threatening to reveal the intimate images unless their demands are met. In some instances, pictures may not have been sent, but the criminals will try and create a feeling of panic by making it look like the pictures or videos are of an individual.

How does it happen?

Criminals will attempt to start conversations over social media platforms such as Instagram, Snapchat, dating apps and even online gaming. They will attempt to befriend you by impersonating someone who may be attractive and seem attracted to you too. The criminals then develop the online relationship over time and persuade you to send over personal photos or videos. Threats are then made to send these photos and videos to family and friends unless you send over money. Sextortion is often the work of organised criminal gangs.

What to do if you think you are a victim of Sextortion?

If you are the victim of Sextortion then there are a number of people who can help so try not to panic.

- Firstly, you should report it to the police on 101.
- Do not communicate further with the account, report the incident with the internet providers and service platforms. Screenshot your communication.
- Do not pay, in some cases when the money is sent over, videos will still be leaked online or sent to family or friends. Demands may also increase once they know that your are willing to pay.
- Preserve the evidence of social media accounts, bank account details etc.

Top tips for keeping safe

- Be wary of any new relationships that start online, ensure you know the person you are talking to before sending them any personal information.
- Ensure your social media accounts have the strictest privacy restrictions on all platforms and up to date anti-virus and anti-malware software to stop anyone hacking into your device.
- If you feel uneasy by a user's communication with you online, block and report where necessary.
- Be careful with your webcam usage, many programs allow people to record without any knowledge.

What to look out for?

Often there are key things for to look out for if you are concerned about who may be contacting you online. These are things to look out for:

- Something does not add up. Their online profile doesn't match what you see and hear when you talk or chat with them.
- It happens too fast. They express strong emotions for you almost straight away, and quickly tempt you across to a more private channel, suggesting you get nude or sexual in a video call.
- They make excuses. They say their webcam is not working and instead they send a nude photo which they claim is of them.
- They pile on the pressure. They keep asking you to be sexual and to send nudes with your face in the shot.

What is the impact?

The high profile and status of Wolves players and staff can mean that they are at high risk for criminals to try and exploit financially. Being the victim of sextortion can make the victim feel extremely embarrassed and ashamed about the photos/videos as well as being tricked into a fake relationship. Due to intense media scrutiny for players and staff, individuals can be wary of coming forward for help and see the easiest way out to pay the criminals money, but there are people who can help.

Where can I find more information?

- [PAPYRUS](#)
Provides confidential advice and support and works to prevent young suicide in the UK.
- [Samaritans](#)
To talk any time you like in your own way and off the record
- [Get Safe Online](#)
- [Thinkuknow](#)

