TOOL 03 OF 13 FOR PARENTS

Sexual images and threats: what to do.

For: Parents and caregivers · **From the guide:** pages 17, 23, and 24

There's more you can do about this than most parents realize, and the first steps are the same whether the image is real or made with AI.

Start with your child

Whether they sent a photo, were tricked, or never sent anything at all, it is not their fault. Tell them that before anything else: "You're not in trouble. You're the one being hurt here, and we're going to handle this together."

Don't

- Don't screenshot, download, or forward the image, not even as evidence.
- Don't delete or move an image that's already on a device until you've called NCMEC for help.
- Don't confront the person who shared it.
- Don't share it with other parents, even to warn them.

Do

- Save the messages around it, the sender's username, and the date, without the image.
- Report it to NCMEC's CyberTipline at **report.cybertip.org** or **1-800-843-5678**.
- Report it to the platform, and tell the school if classmates are involved. You can also report it to your local police.

Getting it taken down

- **Take It Down** (takeitdown.ncmec.org) is a free, anonymous service for nude or sexual images taken before age 18. Your child uses it on the device that has the image, and the image never leaves that device. It helps participating platforms find and remove exact copies. It can't reach encrypted private chats, so report to the platform, too. For images taken at 18 or older, StopNCII (stopncii.org) offers the same kind of help.
- **Platforms have to act.** Federal law now requires them to remove intimate images shared without consent, including AI-made ones, within 48 hours of a valid request.
- **If it's an image of another child,** don't try to handle it yourself. Report it to the CyberTipline and follow their guidance.

If someone is threatening your child

This is called sextortion. It usually starts with someone online who seems like a teen, often flirting, who asks for a photo. Then the tone changes: send money or more pictures, or everyone sees it. It can happen to any kid, and it often targets boys.

1. **Don't pay.** Paying rarely ends it, and it often leads to more demands. If your child already paid, stop now.
2. **Stop responding.** Don't send anything else, and don't try to reason with them.
3. **Save, report, then block.** Screenshot the conversation without the image, and note the sender's username and profile link. Report the account in the app, then block it. Don't delete your child's messages or account.
4. **Report it** to NCMEC's CyberTipline at report.cybertip.org or 1-800-843-5678, and to the FBI at tips.fbi.gov or 1-800-CALL-FBI. You can also contact your local police.
5. **Secure their accounts.** Change passwords and turn on two-factor sign-in.
6. **Get the image taken down.** If an image was shared or might be, use Take It Down (above).

Watch out for "recovery" offers

Don't pay a service that promises to find the person or delete the images. That can be another scam. Report only to the platform, NCMEC, the FBI, or the police.

Support them through it

Kids who are being sextorted can feel trapped and panicked. Stay close, and keep reminding them it isn't their fault. A frightened or ashamed child can call or text **988**, or you can call with them. If anyone is in danger right now, call **911**.