



THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT *of* JUSTICE

Efforts to Prevent the Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children

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September 15, 2026

Prevention is Critical

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Benjamin Franklin

“Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them.” Albert Einstein

Let's go be geniuses.



We cannot effectively prevent
what we do not understand.

Three Specific Online Threats to Children

Sextortion (including
financially motivated
sextortion)

Sadistic Online
Exploitation

Misuse of AI to Create
Deepfakes

Sextortion

Typical Fact Pattern

- Offender chooses minor to target
- Offender adopts persona of peer and contacts minor on social media
- Offender engages minor and persuades minor to send sexually explicit image
- Offender threatens to distribute image unless minor pays money or sends more imagery

The AI Wrinkle

Sextortion

- FMS: victims are usually teenaged, popular, and accomplished boys
- Offenders use some of the most popular social media apps and sometimes “app-hop”
- FMS: payments often made through CashApp, Venmo, gift cards, etc.
- Many FMS offenders located abroad

Sextortion: How bad is the problem?

- 2022: 10,731 FMS-related CyberTips to NCMEC
- 2023: 26,718 FMS-related CyberTips to NCMEC
- 2024: 36,500 FMS-related CyberTips to NCMEC
- 2025: 50,000 FMS-related CyberTips to NCMEC
- Has led to more than 36 suicides of U.S. teens (usually within hours of first contact)
- Many survivors suffer severe emotional and psychological trauma as a result

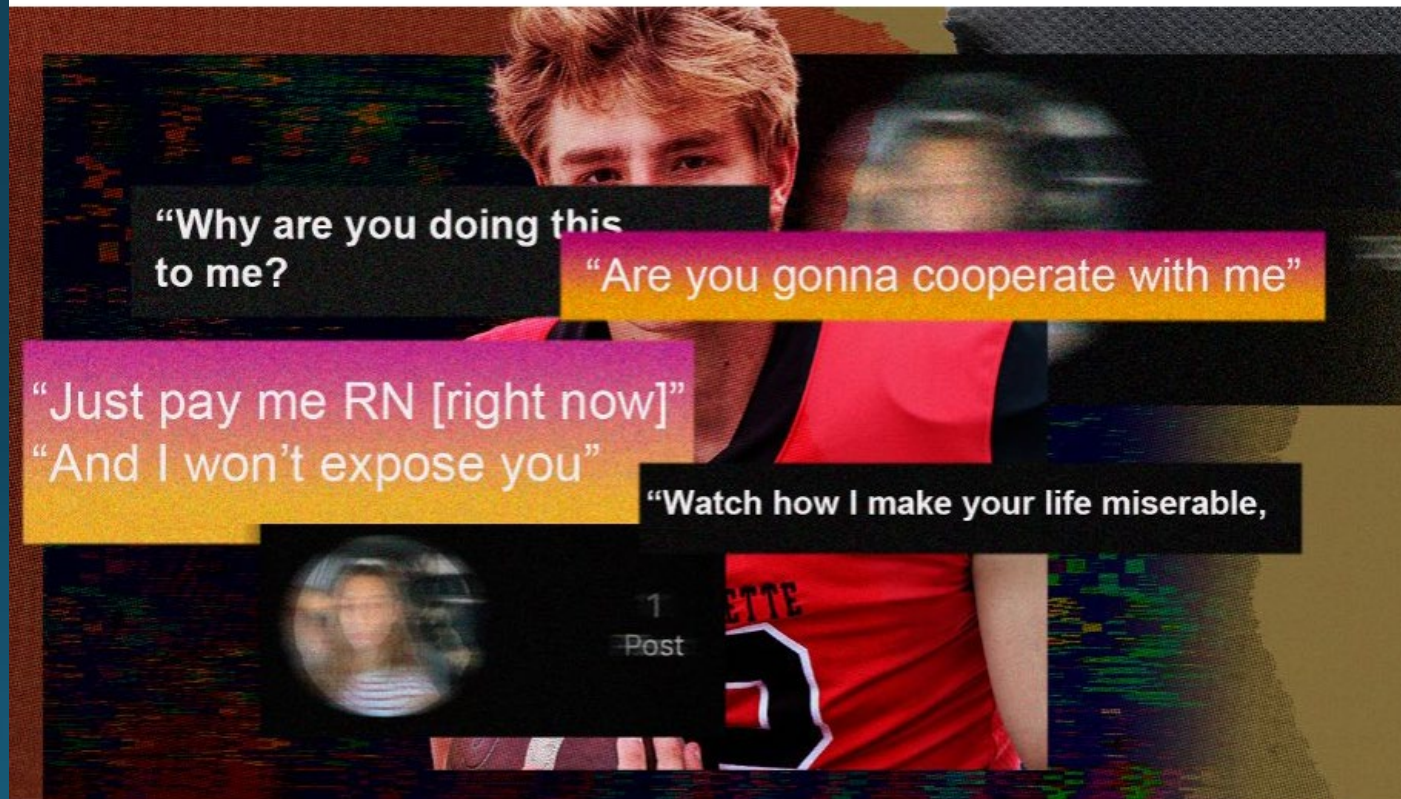
“The shame, fear, and confusion people feel when they are caught in this cycle often prevent them from asking for help or reporting the abuse.”

https://www.ic3.gov/AnnualReport/Reports/2025_IC3Report.pdf



https://www.espn.com/high-school/story/_/id/45852691/fbi-extortion-online-youth

The predatory web of sextortion increasingly ensnares young athletes



ESPN Illustration



Dan Wetzel
Aug 10, 2025, 07:00 AM ET

Sadistic Online Exploitation (SOE)

Typical Fact Pattern

- Offender, often acting in concert with others, targets and contacts a minor online
- Offender persuades, induces, or coerces victim to record themselves engaging in degrading and violent acts, such as:
 - Carving offender's name/alias into their skin
 - Producing sexually explicit material
 - Causing physical harm to siblings and pets
 - Committing random acts of violence
 - Suicide
- Offender shares material with others
- Disparate motivations

Sadistic Online Exploitation (SOE)

- Relatively new threat stream
- Offenders are usually male – both adults and minors
- Offenders often target vulnerable children (e.g., children with depression, loneliness, eating disorders, etc.)
- Global in nature
- 1300 CyberTips in 2024 (>200% increase over 2023)
- 3000 CyberTips in 2025

Misuse of AI to Create Deepfakes

- “Nudify” apps allow easy, quick, realistic deepfakes
- Adults use these tools to create deepfake child sexual abuse material
- Kids use these apps to create nonconsensual sexualized deepfakes of classmates
- Children seem to do this out of curiosity, bullying, or teasing – but harm is real
- Research suggests awareness gap: kids more aware than schools and parents
- Need policies and procedures and prevention and education

<https://www.wired.com/story/deepfake-nudify-schools-global-crisis/>



SECURITY POLITICS THE BIG STORY BUSINESS SCIENCE CULTURE REVIEWS

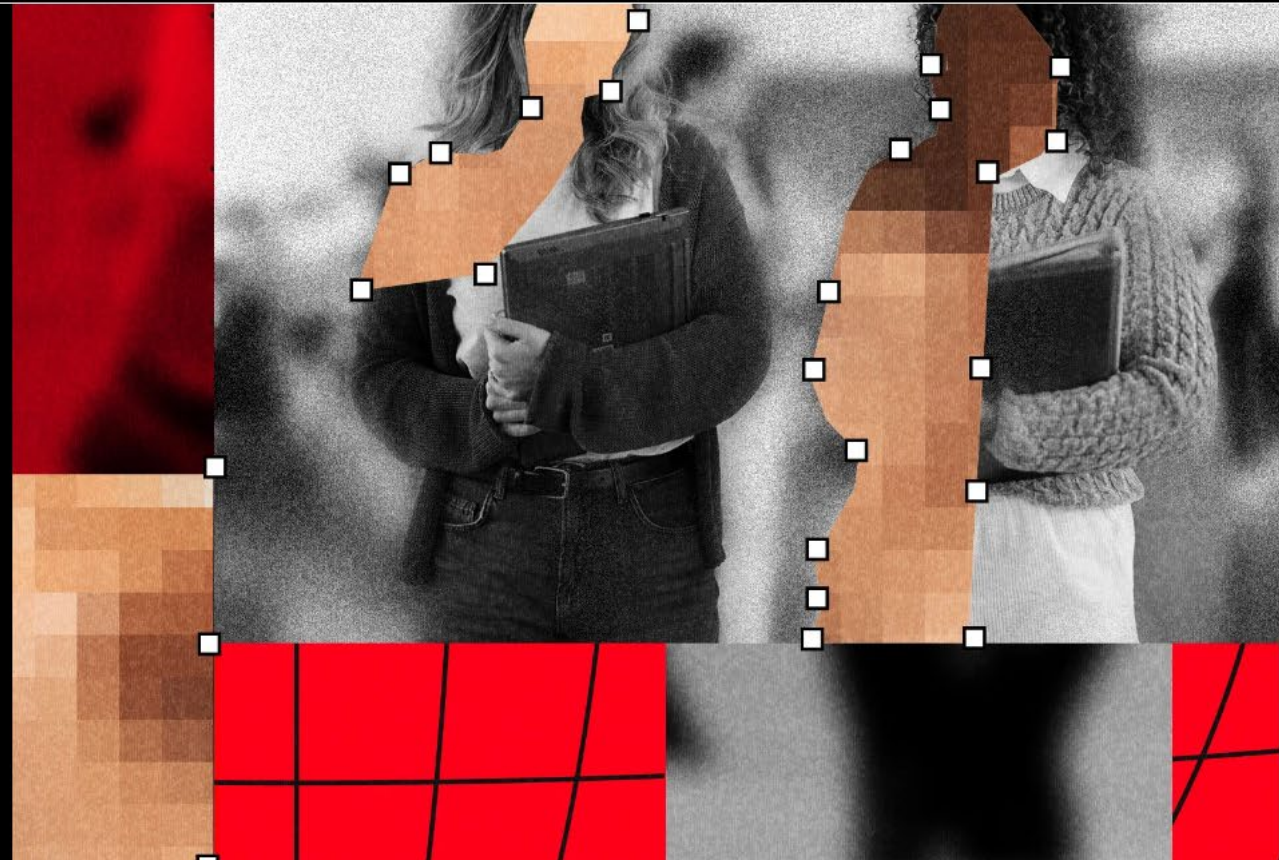
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MATT BURGESS

SECURITY APR 15, 2026 6:00 AM

The Deepfake Nudes Crisis in Schools Is Much Worse Than You Thought

An analysis by WIRED and Indicator found nearly 90 schools and 600 students around the world impacted by AI-generated deepfake nude images—and the problem shows no signs of going away.



Pa. teens get probation after using AI to create fake nudes of classmates

The boys, who were 14 at the time, admitted earlier this month that they made 59 child sex abuse images, some of which included classmates at Lancaster Country Day School.

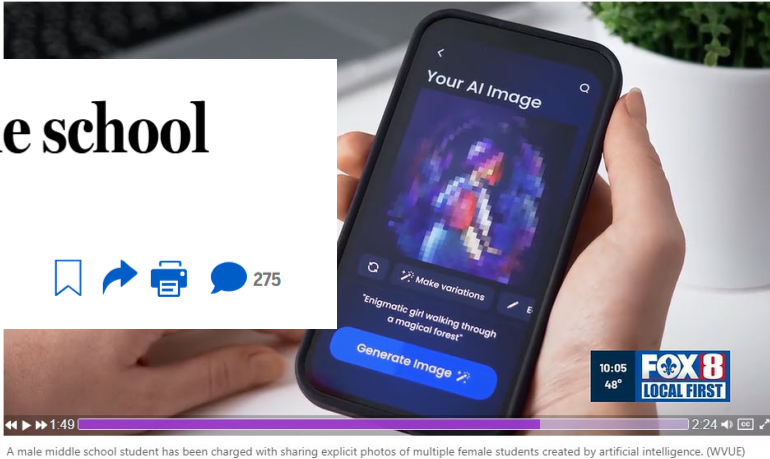
By Associated Press , Mark Scollaro · March 25, 2026



He made a fake nude of his middle school classmate. Nothing happened.

By Mariana Simões Globe Staff, Updated April 9, 2026, 7:48 a.m.

Middle school student charged with sharing AI-created nude photos of classmates, sheriff says



A male middle school student has been charged with sharing explicit photos of multiple female students created by artificial intelligence. (WVUE)

Beverly Hills middle school expels 5 students after deepfake nude photos incident

The eighth graders were accused of using generative AI to create fake images of 16 classmates.



Beverly Vista Middle School, in Beverly Hills, Calif. Jason Armond / Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

Boys at her school shared AI-generated, nude images of her. She was the one expelled

A 13-year-old girl at a Louisiana middle school got into a fight with classmates who were sharing AI-generated nude images of her

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and JACK BROOK Associated Press **AP**
Monday, December 22, 2025



Teens get probation after using AI to create fake nudes of classmates

Prosecutors said they morphed photos of girls, many from Instagram, with virtual images of adults depicting nudity or sexual activity.

“The girls described the fallout — anxiety attacks, a loss of trust, problems focusing on schoolwork and a fear that the images may someday surface in unexpected ways.”

<https://www.bostonherald.com/2026/03/25/ai-abuse-images/>

Guidance for School-Based Professionals and School Leaders

Addressing Children's Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) to Create Sexually Explicit Deepfake Imagery

The safety and protection of children are essential to the mission of every school. Each year, tens of millions of reports of child sexual exploitation are made to the CyberTipline run by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), with a growing trend of sexually explicit images being produced by individuals using generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) programs.

In many cases, individuals use GenAI to create "deepfake" images: for example, they use GenAI to manipulate benign images of actual children to make it appear as though the children are engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

As GenAI technology continues to advance rapidly, it is critical that school communities equip themselves with the tools and knowledge needed to safeguard children, develop an effective and victim-centered approach to helping children who have been victimized, and implement effective prevention programming. This document aims to help schools in that endeavor in 4 sections:

1. Know the issue
2. Understand the impact
3. What can schools do?
4. Resources, additional information, and requests for guidance

Helping Youth Navigate Online Sextortion and Exploitation

Sexually Motivated Sextortion, Financially Motivated Sextortion, and Sadistic Online Exploitation

As children spend seemingly ever-increasing amounts of time online, including on social media and online gaming, the threats to children — especially threats involving exploitation and abuse — continue to grow. This document focuses on three especially pernicious manifestations of these threats —

(1) sexually motivated sextortion, (2) financially motivated sextortion, and (3) sadistic online exploitation

— by outlining the threats, offering initial thoughts on what you can do to respond, and providing resources for further information and assistance.

In this document:

1. Know the issues
2. What can you do?
3. Resources, additional information, and requests for guidance

Ten Best Practices for Prevention Programs

- Follow a victim-centered approach.
- Assess the effectiveness of prevention programs and adjust when needed.
- Minimize or eliminate fear based messages.
- Reflect online risks accurately.
- Stay focused on behavioral goals.
- Encourage a multi-pronged approach to prevention.
- Work and plan collaboratively with the host school or agency to provide Internet safety training for staff.
- Include skill building information about responding to harmful online behavior.
- Provide Internet safety education to parents.
- Offer additional resources.

Example:

A child discloses they are a victim of sextortion. It started when they sent a nude image during what they thought was harmless flirting.

Unintended Shaming Response: "You shouldn't have sent nude images to someone you didn't know. Let's figure out what to do next."

They know they made a mistake. This type of response puts blame on the victim for being manipulated (something that isn't their fault) and may limit a full disclosure.

Victim-Centered Response: "I'm so glad you asked for help. This individual took advantage of you. Everyone makes mistakes, let's figure out next steps together."

1 Follow a victim-centered approach.

Encouraging victims to seek support should be a central goal of all prevention education. Victims are less likely to reach out for support when the messages blame or shame them. Messaging should indicate that the responsibility for victimization lies with the perpetrator, not the victim.

Remember that audiences may include children and/or adults who have experienced victimization. Be prepared for disclosures.

Victimization experiences are complex with many dynamics at play. Situations could include peer pressure, romance manipulation or trickery, bullying, extortion, and other power imbalances. The adult or peer's role is to be there to give help and support.

2 Assess the effectiveness of prevention programs and adjust when needed.

It is important to assess the effectiveness of prevention programs and make changes to the programs as needed.

Mechanisms should be put in place to obtain feedback on presentations and presenters to ensure effective and consistent messaging. This may include evaluations from the host agency, supervisor/colleague observations and feedback from presenters.

It is important to review research on Internet safety and prevention best practices and stay up to date on emerging trends.

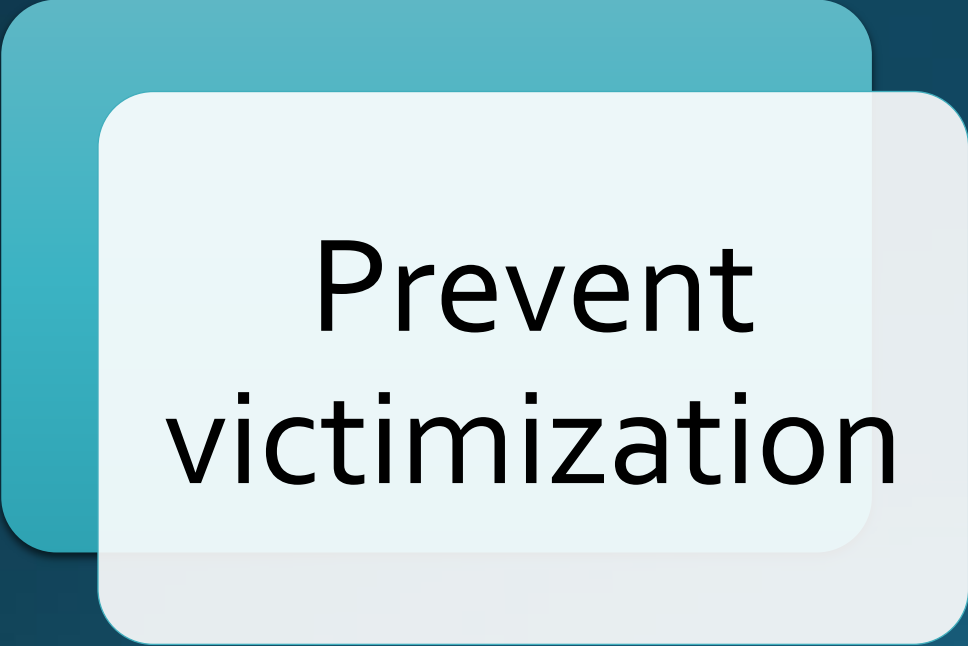
Adapt efforts as appropriate to reflect evolving knowledge and awareness.

- Utilize various ways to measure effectiveness:
 - Local statistics
 - Disclosures
 - Reports to police
- Presentation evaluations
- Update presentations regularly and frequently.

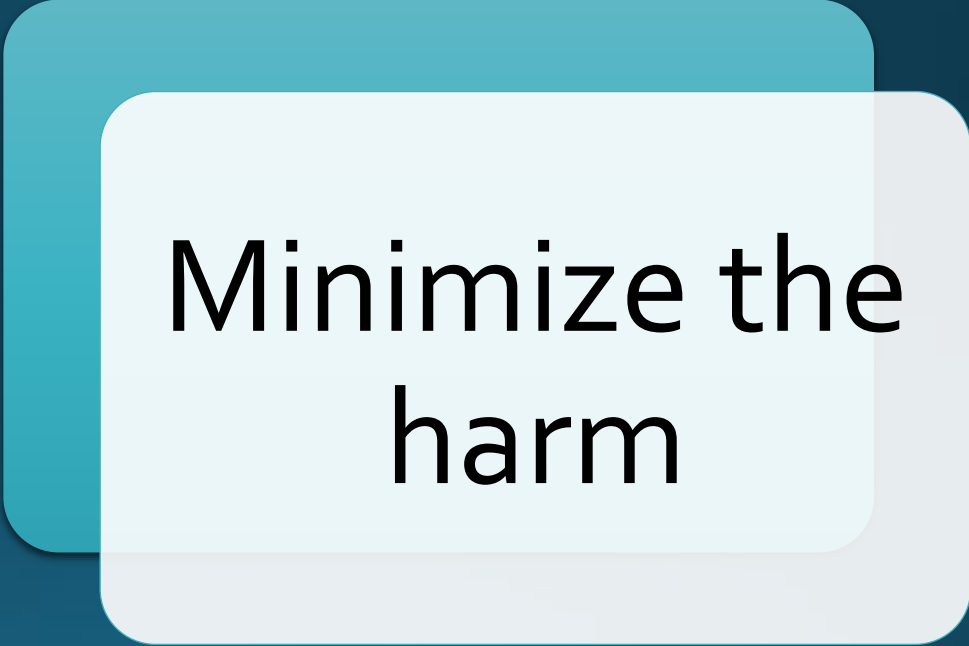
Why is prevention so important?

- Lots of actual/potential victims
- Motivated offender population
- Harm is grave

Two Goals of Prevention



Prevent
victimization



Minimize the
harm

Prevention: A 360° Approach



Risk Factors

Unknown
friends/followers

Accounts left
open to public

Sharing too
much personal
information

Social isolation

Accepting friend
requests from
unknown people

Desire for social
acceptance and
online validation

Excessive time
spent online

Lack of
awareness of
online risks

Some Red Flags



Unusual money
requests and
transactions



Sudden mood or
behavior
changes



Becoming
unusually upset
when they
cannot get
online



Deep secrecy
with respect to
online activities



Signs of self-
harm

CAUTION

“I trust my child.”

- **“Besides, he trusted [his son] implicitly.”** – *Article referencing parent of FMS suicide victim* (https://www.espn.com/high-school/story/_/id/45852691/fbi-extortion-online-youth)
- **“It doesn’t matter how smart teens are or how well they scored on the SAT or ACT. Good judgment isn’t something they can excel in, at least not yet.”**
(<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content?ContentID=3051&ContentTypeID=1>)
- **“Once there’s emotions involved, the decision making of the teenager just goes out the window. What’s interesting is that it plays on very normal human dynamics – when our emotions get involved we make poor decisions. That’s what predators prey on.”** – Liz Repking, Cyber Safety Counseling. (<https://www.today.com/parents/teens/sextortion-one-mom-warning-parents-sons-death-rcna55471>)

“Based on the stage of their brain development, adolescents are more likely to:

- act on impulse
- misread or misinterpret social cues and emotions
- get into accidents of all kinds
- get involved in fights
- engage in dangerous or risky behavior

Adolescents are less likely to:

- think before they act
- pause to consider the consequences of their actions
- change their dangerous or inappropriate behaviors.”

— *American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*

(https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/The-Teen-Brain-Behavior-Problem-Solving-and-Decision-Making-095.aspx)

Tufts University School of Medicine

“Teenagers are known for their sometimes-unpredictable behavior. One moment they’re mature and clear-thinking, and the next they’re irrational or engaging in risky behavior. Neurologically speaking, they can’t help it, though that’s probably of little comfort to parents’ frayed nerves. Still, it might help to understand that scientists theorize that three interconnected processes of adolescent brain development are the culprit.”

<https://medicine.tufts.edu/news-events/news/teen-behavior-explained-neuroscientist>

UPMC Children's Community Pediatrics (Pittsburgh)

Why Is This Age Group More Vulnerable?

Adolescence is a time of big feelings, fast changes, and deep needs—for **acceptance, connection**, and even **romantic validation**. Teen brains are still developing, especially in areas tied to judgment and impulse control.

That means they may:

- Act before thinking—especially when emotions are high, and a decision feels urgent.
- Crave attention or intimacy.
- Feel safe behind screens, without realizing real-world consequences.
- Respond to flattery or fake relationships.
- Value peer approval over adult warnings.

To make matters worse, **many victims stay silent**. Why? Because they feel ashamed, afraid of getting in trouble, or worry their parents will be angry or disappointed. Meanwhile, perpetrators often escalate threats, increasing fear and urgency.

<https://www.childrenspeds.com/health-resources/adolescent-health-and-wellness/sextortion>

“Teen brains are still developing,” said Dr. Scott Hadland, chief of adolescent medicine at Mass General in Boston. “So when something catastrophic happens, like a personal picture is released to people online, it’s hard for them to look past that moment and understand that in the big scheme of things they’ll be able to get through this.”

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/20/us/ryan-last-suicide-sextortion-california/>

“It won’t happen to my child.”

“[Our son] was on a good track. We had no reason to believe there was an issue at all. We knew nothing about sextortion or how it works.” – *Parent of FMS suicide victim* (<https://abcnews.go.com/US/death-kentucky-teen-sparks-investigation-sextortion-scheme/story?id=119709205>)

“If it could happen to us, in a two-parent household, who are active in our son’s life, it could happen to anybody.” – *Parent of FMS suicide victim* (<https://abcnews.go.com/US/michigan-teens-suicide-highlights-growing-dangers-online-sextortion/story?id=104038295>)

“Parents must know it doesn’t matter how smart your kids are, they are kids. They are more reckless while young, possessing false notions of invincibility until they are about 25, when the brain is fully developed. ... It truly can happen to anyone.” – *Parent of child who died in connection with online challenge* (<https://archewell.org/theparentsnetwork/memorial/>)

“I want his story shared. To scare parents to know that I thought my kid was safe, and that it wasn’t going to happen to me.” — *Parent of child who committed suicide*
(<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/12/technology/roblox-lawsuit-child-safety.html>)

“You’re weak.”

They’re not. They’re victims. And they’re scared.

“How could you? Why would you do that?”

We can understand why.

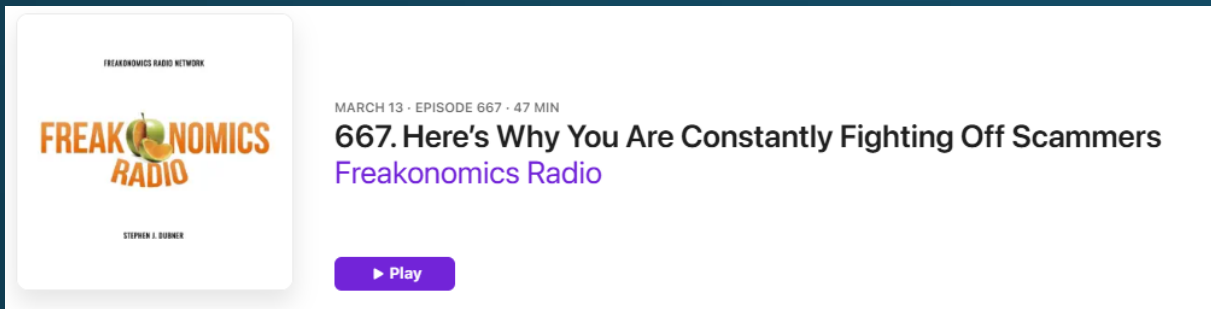
Be Honest

Bad decisions as kids?

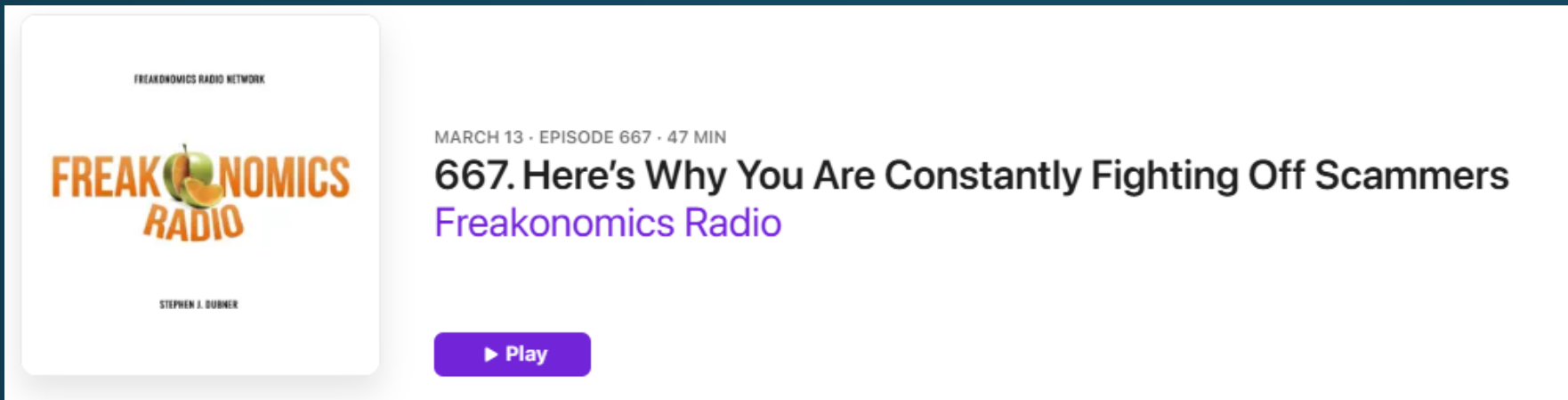
Bad decisions as adults?

Too-good-to-be-true schemes?





- 2024: scammers in SE Asia stole \$10 **BILLION** from Americans
- “So scam is a type of trauma. It’s a betrayal trauma. We definitely need trained clinical mental health workers in this area. Scam victimization often leads to suicide.”
- “There are scams that are literally so good that they could fool any of us.”
- “Part of the reason why cons work is because we want them to work. We want to believe we’re getting the deal, we’re getting the special thing.”



- “I think when people read about some of these scams, they think, how could someone fall for that? What are they thinking? Without realizing that a different day, a different context, and a different premise, they would be a victim of fraud as well.”
- “One reason why emotional arousal is so effective is that it overwhelms our slow, deliberate, analytical, cognitive processing”
- “When I interview victims, they often talk about how the scammers made them feel like everything had to be done just then, or they would experience some major loss.”

‘We both missed the signs’: How two homebuyers lost \$66,000 in a suspected voice-cloning scam

“We both missed some of the signs,” Wendy VanDoeselaar said. “We had so many things going on. We were really invested (and) we wanted to buy this condo. It caused us to believe this scam, instead of stepping back and going like, ‘wait a minute, this is not right.’”

<https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/15/us/homebuyers-voice-cloning-scam>

(Sept. 15, 2026)

EMBRACE

- “I’ll be there for you.” “I understand.” “We’ll get through this.”

“Don’t just talk to your children about what not to do on social media. Talk to them about what to do when things go wrong. We’ll never know why [our son] didn’t just come to us and give us a chance to reassure him and fix it.” – *Parents of 16-year-old boy who committed suicide as a result of being sextorted.*
(<https://archewell.org/theparentsnetwork/memorial/>)

“We never told him if you do mess up, and something happens on the internet, come to us.” – *Parent of FMS-suicide victim*
(<https://www.click2houston.com/news/local/2021/05/14/deadly-scam-aimed-at-teens-this-is-what-one-houston-area-family-wants-you-to-know/>)

- Lower the temperature. Promise and deliver a soft landing.
- Empathy. “There but for the grace ...”
- Help is available

“Remind your teens that they’re resilient and competent. **Because they’re so focused in the moment, teens have trouble seeing that they can play a part in changing bad situations.** It can help to remind them of times in the past that they thought would be devastating but turned out for the best.”

(<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content?ContentID=3051&ContentTypeID=1>)

Ryan Last

(shared with permission of his family)

Ryan Last

↗ Sent

2/25/2022 11:44:29.097 PM

Was that good?

emillysmith116@gmail.com

✓ Received

2/25/2022 11:48:23.028 PM

so tell me would you like me to start posting your
nude video now or delete it??

↗ Sent

Ryan Last

2/26/2022 12:34:21.084 AM

Could you get the Zelle app, I need to get parent permission for apps and they would kill me if they figured out this was happening

↗ Sent

Ryan Last

2/26/2022 1:30:45.716 AM

Your ruining my life

Ryan Last

↗ Sent

2/26/2022 1:31:13.706 AM

I can't pay anymore, the 150 was all I have

Ryan Last

↗ Sent

2/26/2022 1:31:17.963 AM

Please just stop

emillysmith116@gmail.com

✓ Received

2/26/2022 1:31:39.933 AM

500\$

From Ryan's suicide note:

“Today I have been blackmailed. I am really sorry. I should have been smarter about my choices. I'm sorry for whatever grief has come upon you and the family. I just can't live with myself anymore.”

“He really, truly thought in that time that there wasn’t a way to get by if those pictures were actually posted online,” Pauline said. “His note showed he was absolutely terrified. No child should have to be that scared.”

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/20/us/ryan-last-suicide-sextortion-california/>

Prevention Outreach

- Webinars and in-person presentations for school districts and parents/staff
- Looking to expand these efforts
 - School mental health professionals
 - Athletics staff
 - Media specialists
 - Behavioral health care providers
- CEOS.Prevention@usdoj.gov



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

August 27, 2026

Dear State Boards of Education, School Superintendents, School-Based Professionals, Youth Athletics Organizations, Youth Serving Organizations, and all Other Organizations Who Have a Role to Play in Keeping Children Safe:

We write to you about a difficult but deeply important issue: the online sexual exploitation and abuse of children. We invite you to partner with The Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS) to combat this threat and discharge our shared duty to keep our children safe.

As children and teens spend ever-increasing amounts of time on the internet, social media, and in online gaming and virtual reality environments, they are at increasingly greater risk of becoming victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. Although online sexual exploitation and abuse has long been a grave threat to children, in recent years the threat has grown substantially in scale, complexity, and dangerousness.

In 2025, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children received 21.3 million reports of suspected child exploitation involving more than 61.8 million images, videos, and other files. Three emerging threats in particular—sexortion (including financially motivated sextortion), sadistic online exploitation, and the misuse of artificial intelligence to generate photorealistic, sexually explicit deepfake images of children—are endangering our children at dramatically increasing rates and in more severe ways. More than three dozen U.S. teens have committed suicide related to financially motivated sextortion, and countless other victims have suffered greatly. In one instance, a teen committed suicide within one hour of the first contact by the online predator. That is how grave this situation can be. In addition, children around our nation are harming themselves and others when offenders manipulate and coerce them into engaging in all manner of degrading and sadistic acts. Seemingly every day, more children endure the anger, confusion, fear, and anxiety that results from being the victim of a sexually explicit deepfake image or video.

Combating these threats, as well as long-existing threats like grooming, sex trafficking, and the production of child sexual abuse material requires sustained dedication, outreach, and education. Engaging in this type of prevention and education work can be difficult. We are here to partner with you. We can provide resources, guidance, training, and advice. We can help facilitate the delivery of prevention programming. We can work to connect you with prevention experts in your

local communities. Whatever assistance you may need, we will do our best to meet your community need. Please contact us at CEOS.Prevention@usdoj.gov and visit <https://www.justice.gov/criminal/criminal-ceos/prevention> for more details about the Department's prevention efforts.

We look forward to partnering with you.

Sincerely,

A. Tysen
Duva

Digitally signed by A.
Tysen Duva
Date: 2026.08.27
09:04:56 -0400

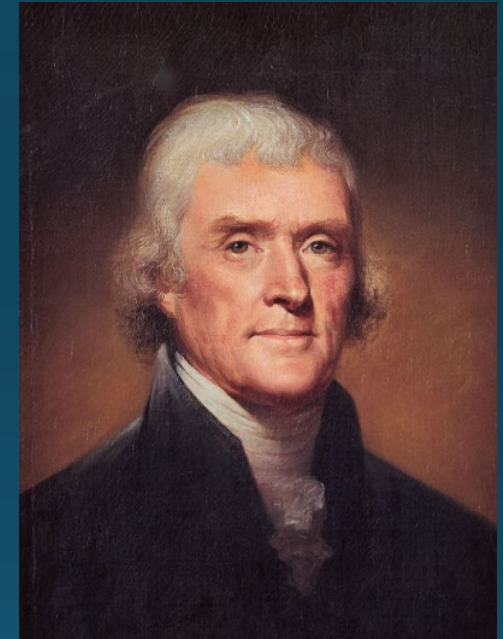
A. Tysen Duva
Assistant Attorney General

We Can Make a Difference

- “Knowledge is power. ...
Knowledge is safety.”

(<https://www.monticello.org/encyclopedia/knowledge-power-quotation/>)

- If kids can recognize what’s happening, they will be better prepared to stop it.
- Success stories are out there.





Prevention Education & Resources



[NCMEC.org/NetSmartz](https://www.ncmec.org/NetSmartz)



Online Safety Program

for Families & Children in Grades K-12



Empower children to take an active role in solving problems safely



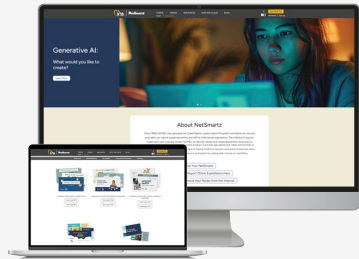
Engage children and adults in two-way conversations about safety and risky behaviors



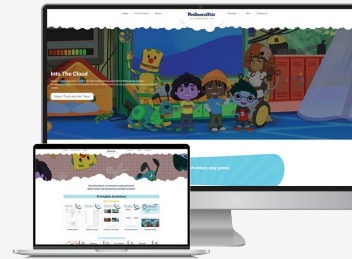
Encourage children to report unsafe behaviors or victimization



NetSmartz® Resources



[NCMEC.org/NetSmartz](https://ncmec.org/NetSmartz)



NetSmartzKids.org



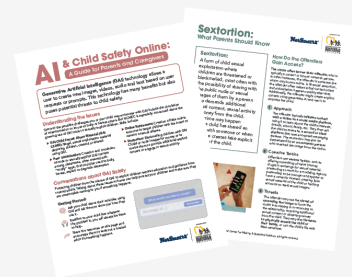
Presentations



Videos



Peer Education &
Mentoring Kit



Tip Sheets



Activity Guides



Online Games

[NCMEC.org/NetSmartz](https://ncmec.org/NetSmartz)

Into the Cloud

Nettie and Webster live in the NetSmartz Neighborhood on “the cloud,” and learn how to keep the internet safer while fighting off the evil plots of the Webville Outlaws.

- Interactive web series
- For children in grades K-5
- Facilitate in individual or group settings
- Discussion guides, activity sheets, & game



NCMEC.org/NetSmartz/IntotheCloud



Uncomfortable Fact

Children are much more likely to be abused or neglected by someone they trust.

NetSmartz™

Being a Trusted Adult

The reality can make it hard for children to understand what types of adult behaviors are inappropriate and how dangerous it is to authority the children have been told to respect.

ASK YOUR GARDENERS: As a trusted adult, there are things you can do to demonstrate to children that you are a safe adult.

Respect children's bodies and boundaries

Trusted adults empower children to assert their boundaries and have control of their own bodies from a young age. This means talking about consent early. Children should understand that they can assert their own boundaries and that in turn they need to respect the boundaries of others. For example:

PRACTICE Boundaries

- "Can I give your hug?" "I don't really feel like a hug. How about a high five?"
- "Little brother is down here like your arm wants to tickle right now... look at how she's hugging me and holding him. Look respect her space."
- "I realized that my worried cousin needs to know your coach gave you a hug today so that you can talk about it if it's OK to tell him you need another high-five."

Listen and respond to children's concerns

When children approach you with safety concerns, it is important to take them seriously, even if they are seemingly small issues. By listening closely and ensuring the issue is thoughtfully handled, you build confidence in children that you can trust you to help them when in trouble. This also helps empower them to be diligent about their own safety. Role playing can be helpful for children to help them practice being a supportive adult.

PRACTICE Listening and Responding

"Mr. Jones, a girl on the playground grabbed my shirt and scratched a cut."

"My mom said she happened. Anybody else? By talking to the girl, we have known what she did and how it affected you. If it happens again, let me know and we will work it out together."

Be an informed resource

It's normal for children to use the internet to look for information about sex, development and relationships. However, they may not be finding the best or most appropriate information on this way. Talking to children openly about healthy relationships and having a safe, appropriate conversation about sexual development will help reduce the risk that they are exposed to unhealthy or unrealistic information online.

PRACTICE Discussing Hard Topics

Adolescents are emboldened by the false accountability to children about sex and sexual development. Get comfortable with the topics or some that have made you uncomfortable in the past. Consider appropriate words such as limit or rehearsal on your own something you want to later address with a child.

Model and explain to other adults

It can be hard to address the subject of child sexual abuse with family and friends, but avoiding these conversations is part of what allows it to continue. When practicing boundaries or listening and responding, be frank with the adults around you about why you are practicing these behaviors with your children in your life.

PRACTICE Speak up at Gatherings

"My grandfather is going to help the kids get their own physical boundaries. We're teaching our grandchildren about hugs today. It's kind of awkward, but it's important to help keep them safe and strong. Adults have good understanding of boundaries, only on the basis of parents' input and report social norms of a generation ago. We appreciate your support in helping us teach the children to give a hug if they feel comfortable."

IT IS WORTH THE PRACTICE.

It is our shared responsibility to protect children.

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Generative AI Resources



[NCMEC.org/
NetSmartz/GAI](https://NCMEC.org/NetSmartz/GAI)



Generative AI Resources

AI & Child Safety Online: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) technology allows a user to create new images, videos, audio and text based on user requests or prompts. This technology has many benefits but also poses potential threats to child safety.

Understanding the Issues

Some of the possible challenges you or your child may encounter with GAI include the circulation of misinformation or its use to bully or harass others. But NCMEC is especially concerned about the growing use of GAI tools to sexually exploit children. Risks include:

- **GAI Child Sexual Abuse Material (GAI CSAM):** Illegal, sexual exploitation material depicting children, created or altered using GAI.
- **Peer Victimization:** Creation and circulation of nude or sexually explicit GAI content among classmates, often created with "nudify" apps, that could be used to bully, harass, exploit or degrade classmates.
- **Online Enticement:** Creation of fake online accounts to target children with the intent to commit a sexual offense.
- **Sextortion:** Blackmailing children with GAI CSAM or nude images for money or to coerce them to provide additional explicit content or engage in sexual activity.

Conversations about GAI Safety

Protecting children from the misuse of GAI to exploit children requires education and guidance from trusted adults. Talking about these issues at home can help protect your children and make sure they are comfortable coming to you if something happens.

Getting Started:

- 1 Ask your child about their activities using GAI and ask them to show you how they use it.
- 2 Reaffirm to your child that whatever the problem is, you will always be there to help.
- 3 Share the resources on this page and encourage them to seek out a trusted adult if something happens.

What would you like to create?
An image of... [Generate]

NetSmartz

AI & Child Safety Online: A Guide for Educators

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) technology allows a user to create new images, videos, audio and text based on user requests or prompts. This technology has many benefits, but it can also pose significant risks to child safety. NCMEC has observed a rise in child sexual exploitation using GAI, including the creation and spread of harmful content.

Key Risks for Children

- **GAI Bullying:** Harassment through GAI-generated explicit content.
- **GAI Child Sexual Abuse Material (GAI CSAM):** Illegal and sexually exploitative material involving children, created or altered using GAI.
- **Peer Victimization:** Creation and circulation of nude or explicit GAI content among classmates.
- **Online Enticement:** GAI-enabled fake accounts targeting children with the intent to commit sexual offenses.
- **Sextortion:** Blackmailing children with GAI-generated explicit images to exploit or coerce them.

School Guidance to Prevent GAI Victimization

Providing education about the potential harms from misuse of GAI tools can help protect students. For effective prevention on this topic, ensure in-school protocols, incident response programs, codes of conduct and trainings for teachers, administrators and school personnel address the following:

- **Creating and Sharing Content:** Discuss with students the risks of creating and sharing GAI explicit content, emphasizing illegality, empathy and the role of bystanders in preventing harm.
- **Upstanders:** Establish classroom standards to encourage students to support victims, discourage bullying and seek help from trusted adults.
- **Facing Victimization:** Talk to students about the possibility of victimization and empower them to seek help by speaking incidents to law enforcement and the CyberTipline.

What would you like to create?
An image of... [Generate]

NetSmartz

A program of the
NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Sextortion Resource: Videos for Teens

Series of short videos focused on sextortion and healthy relationships:

- It's Called Sextortion
- I am a Survivor of Sextortion
- Healthy Relationships

Each video includes a coinciding discussion guide.





Sextortion Resources



**NCMEC.org/
NetSmartz/Sextortion**

Keep Children Safer Online with

NO ESCAPE ROOM

NetSmartz®

A program of the



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
**MISSING &
EXPLOITED**
CHILDREN®



[NCMEC.org/NetSmartz](https://www.ncmec.org/NetSmartz)



Reporting & Other NCMEC Resources

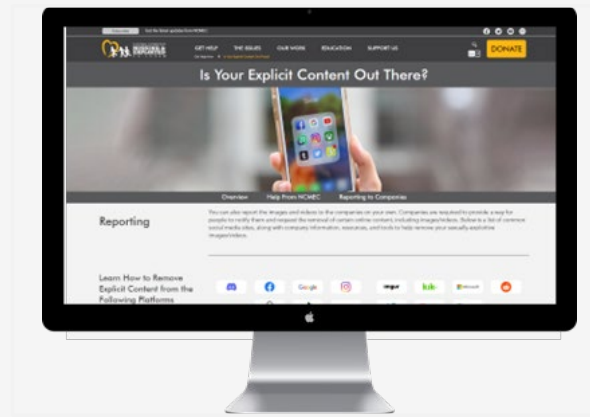


Reporting Resources

All can be used for GAI CSAM!



Report to the
CyberTipline



Report to the
Company



Report to
Take It Down



CyberTipline

CyberTipline.org • 1-800-THE-LOST®

Report to the CyberTipline

- Anyone who sends a child photos or videos containing obscene content
- Anyone who asks a child to send sexual images
- Anyone speaking to a child in a sexual manner
- Anyone who asks a child to meet in person

Report to Take It Down

- Free and anonymous
- Help remove or stop the online sharing of nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit images or videos of minors
- For each image or video, a “hash” is generated
- Image/video remains on user’s device
- The hash is added to a secure list maintained by NCMEC
- Only participating companies will have access to the hash

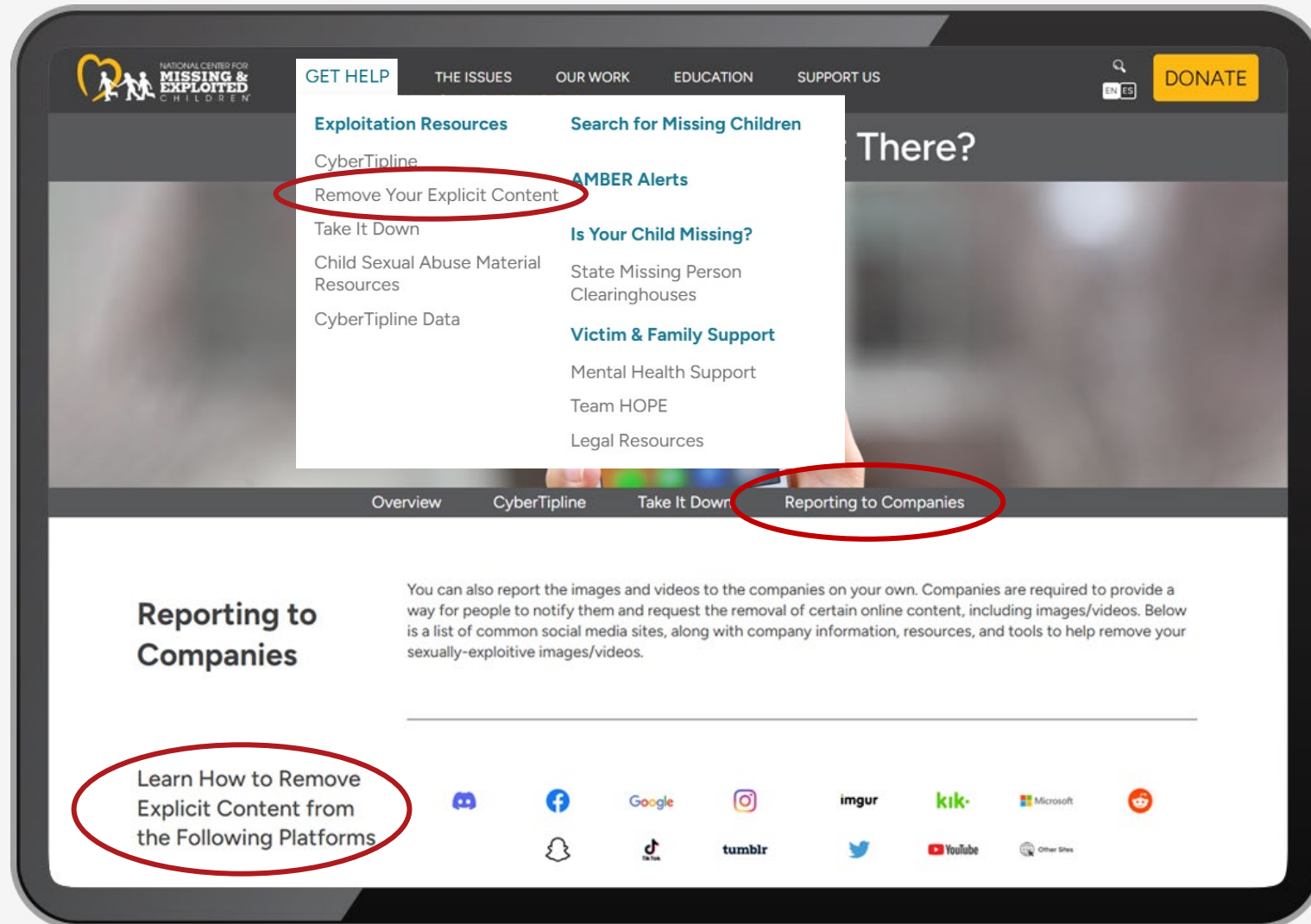
Take **It** Down



TakeItDown.NCMEC.org



Help Removing Sexually Explicit Content



**NCMEC.org/
GetHelpNow/
IsYourExplicit
ContentOutThere**

Free Training for Professionals: NCMEC Connect

Online learning platform with on-demand trainings, resources and best practices related to missing and exploited children.

New courses:

- Someone Disclosed To Me – Now What?
- Sextortion: What Is It and What You Need to Know About It
- Understanding CSAM and Its Impacts
- Working with Victims and Survivors of CSAM

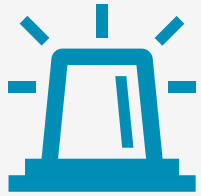


Connect.NCMEC.org



Support for Families & Caregivers

All services are **FREE**. Families do not have to have an active case to be eligible.



Crisis Intervention



Peer support
network



Mental health and
community
support referrals



Reunification
assistance



Long-term
emotional support



Prevention
strategies



Legal referrals





Join our Community Education Partner (CEP) Program!

Interested in implementing prevention education in your community?

Partnership opportunity for community-based non-profits, schools, and law enforcement agencies interested in implementing NetSmartz and KidSmartz.

Partnership includes:

- Free Authorized Facilitator training
- Ongoing technical assistance and support
- Ongoing learning opportunities
- Listed as a partner on NCMEC website
- Presentation referrals

Email communitypartnerships@ncmec.org to learn more.

Community
EDUCATION
PARTNER





Safe to Compete



Resources

- CEOS: <https://www.justice.gov/criminal/criminal-ceos/prevention>
- NCMEC Hotline: 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)
- NCMEC CyberTipline: <https://report.cybertip.org/>
- NCMEC's "Take it Down" program: <https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/>
- NCMEC's "No Escape Room" site: <https://noescaperoom.org/>
- DHS "know2protect" campaign: www.know2protect.gov
- U.S. Secret Service: <https://www.secretservice.gov/investigations/ncmec>
- ICAC Task Force Program: <https://www.icactaskforce.org/>
- OCEPI: <https://icactaskforce.org/OCEPI>
- Local resources are also critical



Questions and Discussion