

I AM A VICTIM OF SEXTORTION, WHAT CAN I DO?

IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT
You have been tricked and you are not alone!

LAW ENFORCEMENT GUIDE

Since the spring of 2022, there has been a significant increase in cases of Financial Sextortion, where the offender obtains explicit content from a victim and then demands money or gift cards to prevent the offender from sharing this content with the victim's family, friends, and peers. This crime of extortion, frequently perpetrated by organized crime groups in Nigeria or the Ivory Coast, targets young males through various social media using fake female profiles.

Victims of this crime are desperate to stop the offender from sharing their content, some paying large amounts of money, and yet the offender will continue to ask for more. Sadly, some became so desperate that they saw no way out of this situation and committed suicide. Consider how difficult it must be for a victims to come forward, admit they have made a mistake and ask for help. It is critically important that victims are treated with empathy and compassion, and offered the help they seek without judgment and/or criticism.

The ICAC Sextortion Victim Resource contains information for how to react and respond to this situation, next steps to protect victim images or videos, and where to seek mental health assistance. A section has been left open, allowing law enforcement or others to add their local resources and their agency logo and contact information. This resource should be printed and shared with first responders, SRO's, DARE Officers and others who may respond to calls for reports of Sextortion, so they may leave this document with the victim and their family.

This resource can also be used for victims reporting Sexually based Sextortion, where the offender asks for more explicit images or sexual contact in order to stop them from sharing the victims' images with others.