

What is 'sextortion' and how to prevent it



SEX TORTION

RED FLAGS

-  Person does not have a working camera
-  Conversation does not add up
-  Person turns conversations to "adult" right away
-  Profile has limited photos
-  Use of fear tactics
-  Misspelled words in profile
-  Profile has low followers/friends
-  Fast-paced contact

Sextortion: is the practice of extorting money or sexual favors from someone by threatening to reveal evidence of their sexual activity. For example, a person who interacts with you on social media, entices you into a vulnerable sexual situation while recording it. Then they threaten to publish pictures or video unless you agree to pay a specified amount of money. Calvin University Safer Spaces policy prohibits sextortion, a form a sexual exploitation.

Here is a list of red flags to identify possible sextortion:

- **Person does not have a working camera:** The person you are talking to does not have a working camera, but they still want you to share yours.
- **Fast-paced contact:** The person contacts you immediately after they follow you and quickly tries to get you to send images or join a video call.
- **Use of fear:** The person you are talking to uses fear tactics to attempt to get you to pay them money.
- **Low number of pictures:** The person's profile has only a few photos available.
- **Numerous misspellings:** The profile has common words misspelled.
- **New profile:** The profile is new and does not have a lot of followers/friends.

If you do find yourself speaking with a possible sextortionist, consider the following strategies:

- **Cease contact:** Every situation is different. Sextortionists who are motivated by financial gain usually do not distribute images. The best first line of defense is to end all contact.
- **Collect evidence and document communications:** This will help in your effort to file a police report.
- **Block:** Immediately block the person on your social media pages, email, and phone.
- **Do not pay:** If the person requests money, do not pay them. This will likely increase the threats and extortion efforts of the person attempting to receive money.
- **Report to law enforcement:** You can contact your local law enforcement agency, the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#), or the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#) if you are a minor.
- **Beware of expensive cyber-recovery scams:** These scams claim to be able to access the images and destroy them. Often, this is another layer to the overall sextortion scam.
- **Consider deactivating your social media accounts:** If you are being contacted across multiple profiles, it may be beneficial to temporarily deactivate your accounts.

If you experience concerning behavior such as sextortion, sexual assault, or violence while dating or at any other time, The Campus Safety Department is available to assist with an incident report for incidents of sextortion.

The following resources are available to you.

[Victim Rights and Resources](#)

[Safer Spaces](#)

[Safer Spaces Report](#)

[Sexual Assault Prevention Team](#)

[Sexual Offenses Resources](#)

[End Campus Sexual Assault](#)

More information about sextortion and helpful resources to combat it can be found on the [FBI's website](#).