

# Chapter 6:

## Sextortion

### EDUCATOR FACILITATION GUIDE

#### PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

To provide practical tips and instructions for engaging students and handling difficult discussions on the topic of sextortion.

#### MAIN OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To understand the issue of sextortion and how it can happen.
- ▶ To highlight the ease at which technology can facilitate baiting someone using deep fakes.
- ▶ To give students practical steps for accessing help if they find themselves, or know a friend, in this situation.

#### CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ Emphasize respectful communication and confidentiality. It is important to listen and value each other's perspectives even if we don't agree with them.
- ▶ If your students have lots of questions or seem restless, take breaks in between the videos to debrief.
- ▶ Offer emotional outlets such as doodling or colouring sheets during the videos.
- ▶ Let your students know that if they feel triggered, they can leave the room and/or go speak with the counsellor.
- ▶ Identify any local support resources and organizations on the issue ahead of time, so that you can readily refer students who may need additional support.

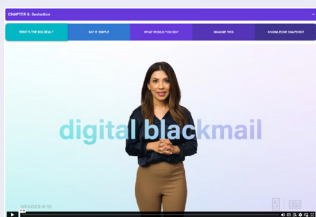
#### MODERATING DISCUSSIONS

- ▶ Ensure that all students have the opportunity to speak.
- ▶ Maintain a non-judgmental tone.
- ▶ If a question is inappropriate or derails the discussion, gently redirect it back to the main topic.
- ▶ If you don't know the answer, it's okay to admit it! Provide additional resources or take note to look into the question later.

## IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

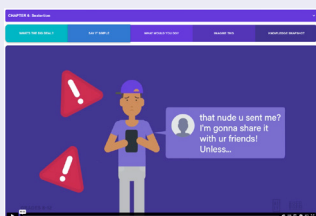
- ▶ Sextortion is digital blackmail where someone uses another person's sexual content (images, videos, screenshots of texts etc.) in order to threaten them for more sexual content or money.
- ▶ Instagram and Snapchat are commonly used platforms where sextortion occurs.
- ▶ Typically, males are targeted for money while females are targeted for sexual content.
- ▶ The majority of victims and targets of sextortion are males who are tricked through baiting- a tactic where someone uses AI to create a deepfake image or video. In these situations, the sextorter poses as a young, attractive female using these deepfakes to lure the male into sharing nude photos or exposing themselves on a livestream. The victim is then recorded or screenshotted.
- ▶ Other tactics used by sextorters include:
  - Offering a gift or money to a youth who sends sexual content.
  - Creating several accounts to make it seem like more than one person is targeting them.
  - Threatening to share the sexual image/video with a school or a news outlet.
- ▶ At its most extreme, the harm caused by sextortion can lead to suicide. When it does, it can occur within 24 hours of the threat.
- ▶ What should someone do if they are threatened?
  - Stop communication period and do not give into any threats.
  - Gather all the information they can and take screenshots.
  - Do not delete anything, even the materials being used to threaten.
  - Block the account and immediately report it to a trusted adult, police, and Cybertip.ca.

## FACILITATION TIPS FOR CHAPTER 6



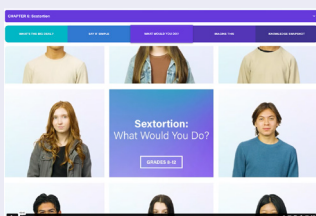
### What's the Big Deal?

Start by asking students what they think sextortion means and if they've heard about it before. This can open up a discussion about online safety and the importance of being cautious with sharing personal information and images online.



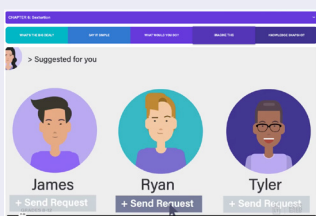
### Say It Simple

Discuss the importance of setting boundaries online and recognizing red flags in digital interactions. Encourage students to think about ways they can protect themselves from potential threats and to always trust their instincts if something feels wrong.



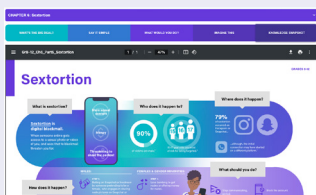
### What Would You Do?

Use these scenarios as a starting point for a role-playing activity. Ask students to act out how they would respond in each situation and discuss the pros and cons of their chosen actions. Emphasize the importance of staying calm and seeking help from trusted adults.



### Imagine This

After watching the scenario, facilitate a discussion about the warning signs of sextortion and the importance of seeking help if you feel uncomfortable or threatened online. Encourage students to share their thoughts and experiences with online interactions.



### Knowledge Snapshot

Use this summary as a reference point for discussing the key takeaways from the chapter. Encourage students to ask questions.

## FAQ'S AND RESPONSES TO GET YOU THINKING

### **Q: How likely is it that someone follows through with the threat if you don't listen?**

**R:** While a definitive answer can never be given, there are a number of factors as to why sextorters would not follow through with the threats if the victim chose not to obey them: First, the reason behind the threats is because sextorters rely on fear to get what they want. If they can not use fear to control and get the results they want, they don't have any other method of force. Additionally, many sextorters target multiple victims at the same time and may not have the care to spend time pursuing someone who can not be controlled. Based on the experience of many law enforcement agencies, often times, sextorters will not follow through with their threats if they are blocked and reported.

### **Q: What happens if the sextorter is not in the country of the victim?**

**R:** They can still be found and charged. Due to the international nature of the internet, many countries have agreements for dealing with crimes like sextortion. Canadian police will start an investigation and collaborate with the law enforcement group of the sextorter's country and location. Canada can extradite the sextorter for a court proceeding, and they could face charges in their home country and in Canada depending on the agreement between the two countries.

### **Q: Do sextorters always bait?**

**R:** Sextorters use a variety of tactics to manipulate their victims. While baiting is common, they may also use a female in their crime group to directly interact with the victim. Other tactics include pretending to be a love interest or sugar daddy, or creating multiple fake profiles to build trust and manipulate their target. Lastly, they might also use social engineering to gather personal information or hack into accounts to obtain private content for blackmail.

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Have students create posters aimed at dismantling shame and fear in anyone who has been victimized by sextortion, and post these around the school.
- ▶ Use an online platform like Kahoot to create an interactive quiz on sextortion facts.
- ▶ Watch a documentary on the topic (a couple options provided below).
- ▶ Continue learning—build on the material from the previous chapters and introduce [Chapter 7: Pimps and Human Trafficking](#) to take a deeper dive into the world of exploitation.

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS



To access the following resources, scan the QR code or [click here](#).

### Documentaries

- ▶ Dark Cloud: The High Cost of Cyberbullying
- ▶ Sextortion: The Hidden Pandemic

### More Animated Videos

- ▶ "Sextortion: Online Coercion and Blackmail"

### Articles and Cases

*\*Please provide a suicide trigger warning.*

- ▶ Amanda Todd
- ▶ Harry Burke
- ▶ 21 Year Old Accused of Sextortion using Snapchat

### Other Educational Resources

- ▶ StopSextortion.com
- ▶ "Send a Mole Rat Instead"

## DISCLOSURES AND REPORTING

- ▶ By addressing these topics and opening up the space for discussion, an individual may feel safe to come forward with a disclosure
- ▶ It takes courage and a lot of trust in someone to share something like this. Thank them for sharing with you and trusting you with that information. Prove their trust right by being non-judgmental, and emotionally measured in your response. Acknowledge that it takes a lot of courage to come forward and that you are there to help in any way you can.
- ▶ Ask them if anyone else knows about this already. Find out what their needs are. Do they need an empathetic ear? Do they need assistance with reporting? Do they need to be connected with resources?
- ▶ Encourage them to report to a confidential and safe resource, or connect them with a counsellor. Have these resources prepared/ available ahead of time.
- ▶ If they are currently at risk of harm, let them know that it is your duty to report and that you can accompany them or find someone to support them during this process.
- ▶ If a minor is currently at risk of harm or is being harmed, it is your duty to report it to your local child welfare services.

### KIDS HELP PHONE (24/7)

- ▶ Call 1-800-668-6868
- ▶ Text "CONNECT" to 686868

### CYBERTIP.CA

- ▶ Report about shared intimate images

### NEEDHELPNOW.CA

- ▶ Help with removing sexual pictures/videos

### SUICIDE CRISIS HELPLINE (24/7)

- ▶ Call or text 988