



Empowering Communities

Internet Safety Resources for Teaching Our Youth

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VA DCJS- School Safety Forum

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BEFORE WE BEGIN...

Though this presentation will not contain abusive or explicit imagery of minors, there will be detailed discussion of topics related to child exploitation and other forms of child victimization.

These topics are difficult to hear about and discuss, even for professional who have chosen to work in this field. Please take care during this session if you need to manage your exposure to these topics and take advantage of other resources related to self-care and managing secondary traumatic stress.

AGENDA

OVERVIEW OF NCMEC

EMERGING TRENDS

SEXTING/ ONLINE ENTICEMENT

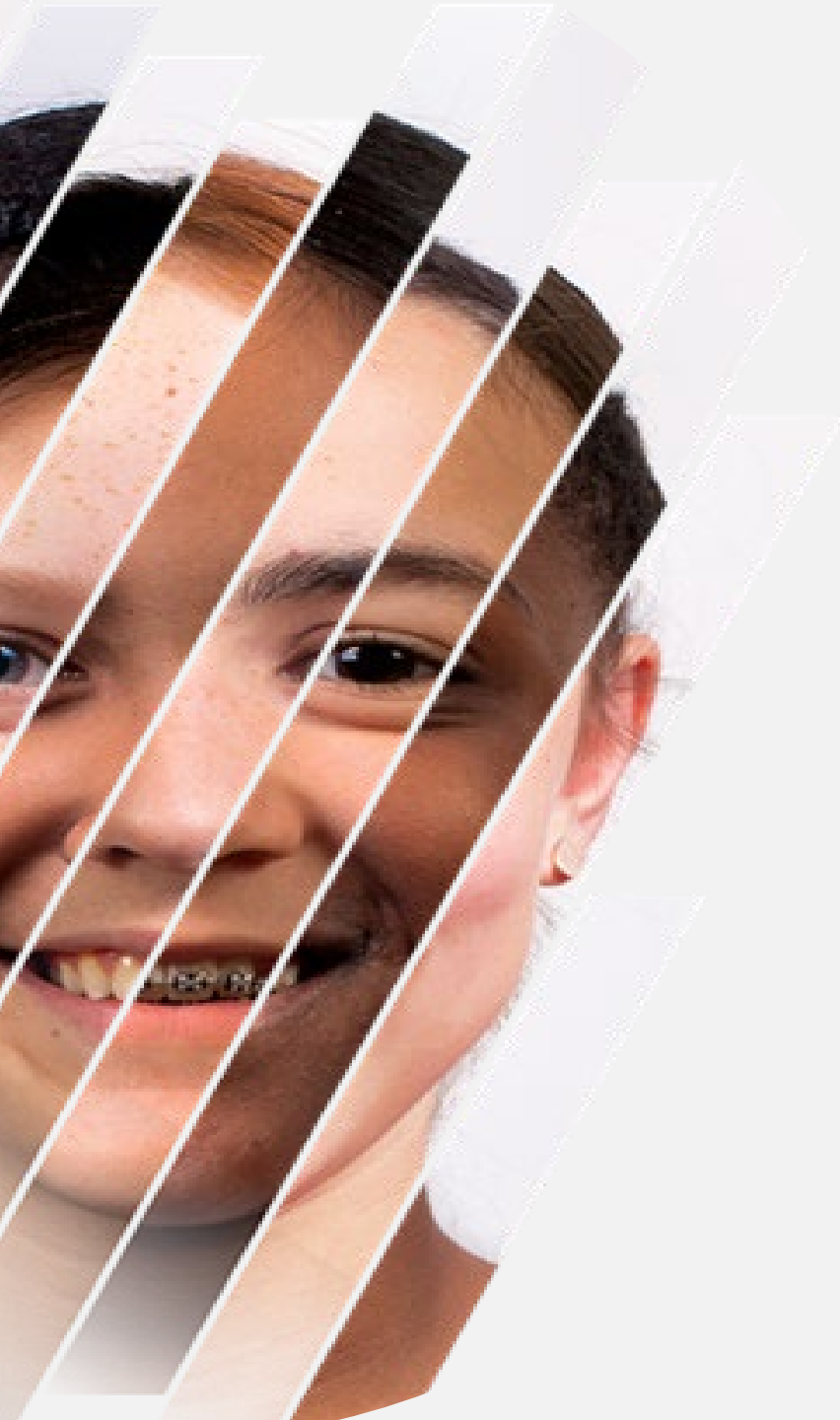
PREVENTION RESOURCES

CONTENT REMOVAL TOOLS



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF HOPE

NCMEC is the nation's largest and most influential child protection organization.
We lead the fight to protect children, creating vital resources for them
and the people who keep them safe.



OUR MISSION

Find Missing Children

Reduce Child Sexual Exploitation

Prevent Future Victimization

Every child deserves a safe childhood.

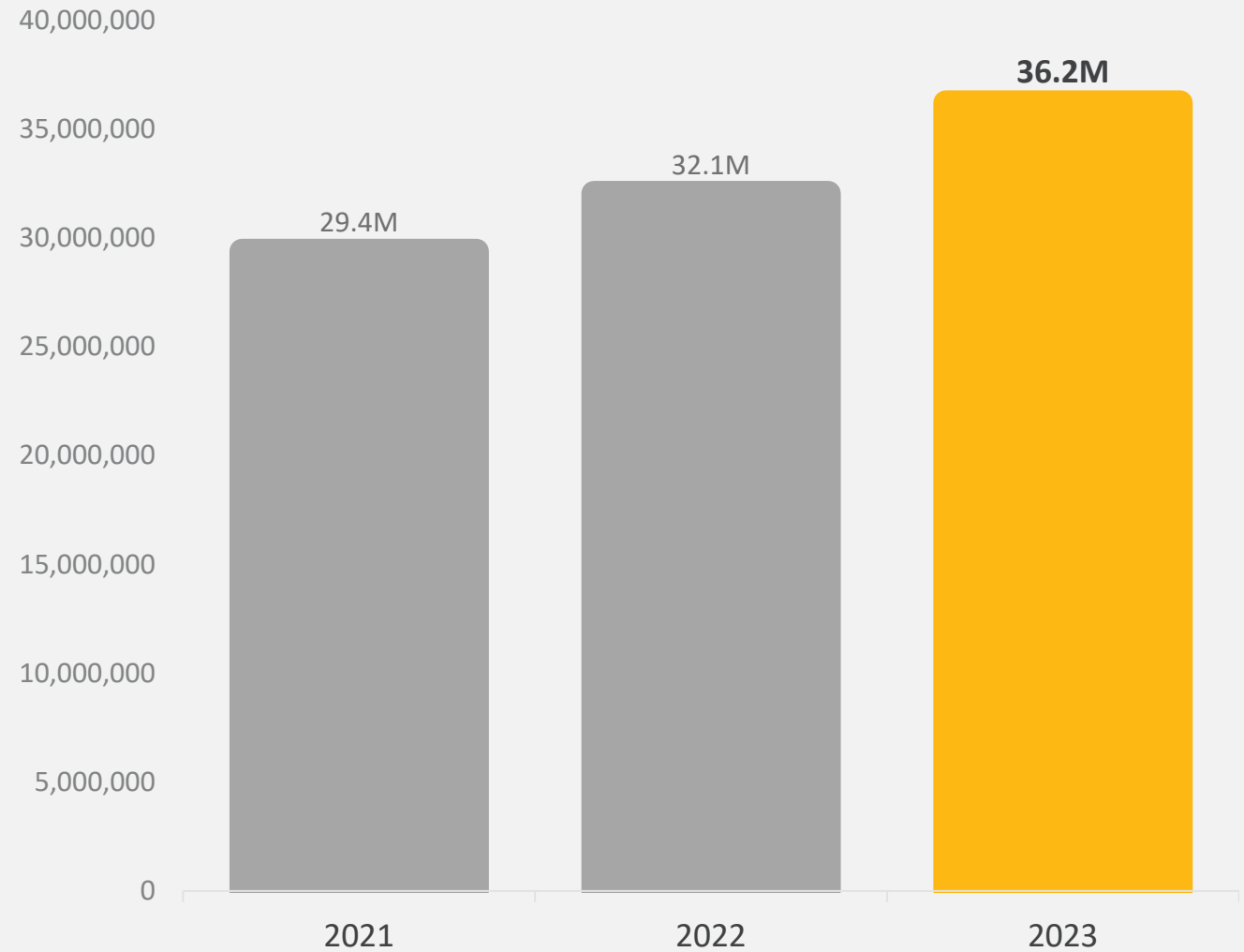


In 2023,
the CyberTipline received
36+ million reports.



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36+ million reports.

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





What is child sexual exploitation?

An exploited child is a person under the age of 18 who is victim of:

- Child sexual abuse materials (CSAM)
- Online enticement of children for sexual acts
- Child sex trafficking
- Child sex tourism
- Child sexual molestation (non-familial)
- Unsolicited obscene materials sent to children
- Misleading domain names
- Misleading words or digital images on the internet



In 2023,
the CyberTipline received
36+ million reports, including
105+ Million
total files.



49,528,198 video



54,842,374 Images



1,282,590 Other



In 2023,
the CyberTipline received
36+ million reports, including
105+ Million
total files.

35,925,098

Apparent child sexual
abuse material (CSAM)

186,819

Online enticement,
including sextortion

63,077

Other offenses: child sex
tourism, deceptive domain
names, misleading content
or unsolicited obscene
material sent to a child

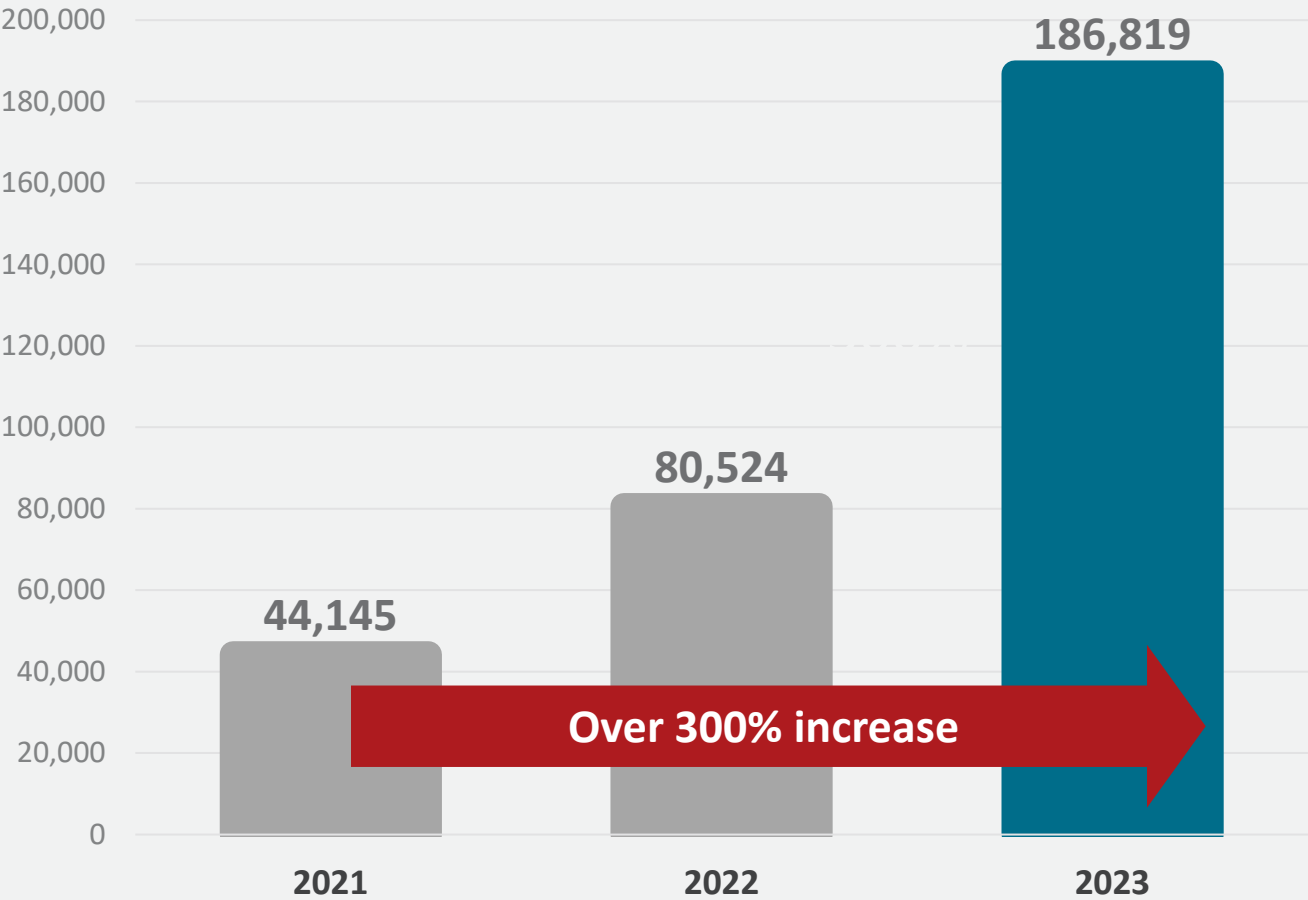
18,021

Child sexual molestation

17,353

Child sex trafficking

Increase in Reports of Online Enticement to CyberTipline



Internet Safety Trends

The CyberTipline Report



Sexting

Online Enticement

Sextortion

Live Streaming

**NCMEC has received reports of
self-generated content in
children of**

all ages



How Many Teens Are Sexting?



19%
Sent



19%
Sent

34%
Received



19%
Sent

34%
Received

15%
Forwarded



Rethinking Prevention Messaging

Current Approach

- Talking only to teenagers
- Focusing on strangers
- Focusing only on the sender
- “Don’t do it” is the whole conversation
- Use worst case scenarios to discourage the behavior

New Approach

- Start having these conversations as soon as possible
- Talk about healthy relationships and healthy sexual development
- Requester, Recipients, Re-sharers
- Provide accurate information and skill building
- Empower children



Your Photo Fate Video and Discussion Guide



"Your Photo Fate"

Discussion Guide

NetSmartz

As children get older, they begin to form peer relationships and start to explore intimacy and their sexuality. Today, this growth also coincides with having more opportunities for private communication through technology, especially cellphones. Young people are often uncomfortable talking to adults about their relationships, particularly when it involves technology, because they fear raising concerns will lead to caregivers restricting access to their devices. However, positive relationships with adults help and empower youth to make safe and healthy choices, both On- and offline. This guide will assist trusted adults in opening the door for age-appropriate and respectful conversations, specifically about the topic of sexting, an increasing trend in reports to school officials and law enforcement agencies.

LISTEN

Begin by watching the short video "Your Photo Fate" together. Next, ask the child(ren) for their thoughts. Start by listening only, without offering your opinion.

For example:

What do you think about the video?

What did you like about it? What did you not like about it?

Has this happened to anyone you know?

Did the story seem realistic? Why or why not?

What do you think the video is trying to show? What do you think about that lesson?

SHARE

Thank the child(ren) for sharing their honest opinions about the video and their experiences. Then calmly share your initial thoughts and reactions to the video. Conversations about difficult topics with youth are most successful when the child feels heard and does not fear punishment or judgement.

For more resources, visit MissingKids.org/NetSmartz
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A program of the

MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

NetSmartz

Engage the child(ren) with the video or issues. Follow the video or issues.

Sexting is the sharing and receiving of sexually explicit messages and nude or partially nude images via cellphone.

CONSEQUENCES

What were the consequences for the boy who asked for the nude image?

- In the end, the girl was angry at him because the picture spread around school.
- A law enforcement officer came to talk to the boy – there can be legal consequences for requesting, receiving or sending nude images of people under the age of 18.

What were the consequences for the girl who sent the nude image?

- As the photo spread, classmates were talking about the image, creating an uncomfortable environment. She may experience feelings of anxiety or depression and have difficulty concentrating in school.
- Her little brother and her mother saw the image which was probably very embarrassing.
- It's also implied that someone she doesn't know saved the image. This could lead to harassment or other dangerous situations if that person is able to find a way to contact her (i.e., via social media).

Emphasize that in the video it appears the boy giving the picture did not intend for the picture to circulate around school. His phone was not out of his hand by his friend. There is no way to be absolutely certain who will see your photos – even if you send it privately to a person you trust. If you believe a child's nude photo has been circulated online, see MissingKids.org/HelpNow. Also let the child know that they should never share this site themselves and share it with others.

For more resources, visit MissingKids.org/NetSmartz
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MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

NCMEC.org/NetSmartz/Sexting



“Healthy Relationships” Video and Discussion Guide



Healthy Relationships

These discussion questions are meant to help spark conversation after watching the video. Unhealthy behaviors in relationships can mimic grooming behaviors, which may lead to child exploitation such as online enticement, sextortion, and child sex trafficking. By having an open dialogue about preventing unhealthy relationships with children, adults can help them develop critical thinking skills and develop trusted relationships that could help protect them from online exploitation and other forms of victimization.

Why should you take time to get to know someone online and offline before you trust them?

Let participants/children come up with some ideas.

Usually, when we start talking to or dating someone we like, everything seems wonderful at first. However, we all have flaws and make mistakes.

Initially, we feel excitement about talking to them, and we might want to speed up the getting-to-know-each-other process. However, keep in mind that taking the time to get to know each other is important; it can help us to:

- **Learn about who they are.** It takes time to learn about the other person's interests, friends, hobbies, family, dreams, values, likes, and dislikes. Sometimes when we meet people, we may think we have a lot in common, but after we get to know them, we learn that this isn't always true.
- **Build trust.** This is essential to having a healthy relationship. Learn about the person's values, how they react to different situations, how they deal with emotions, how they solve problems and treat others, how they make us feel in different circumstances, and how they communicate. Building trust takes effort and requires time.
- **Explore your feelings.** Sometimes we can have strong initial chemistry or attraction for some people, but that initial excitement fades, and we might realize that it was only a crush. Take time to explore your own feelings when meeting someone – you'll learn about yourself and how you actually feel about the other person.

Let participants share their answers and then move on to the next question.

For more resources, visit [NCMEC.org/NetSmartz](https://www.ncmec.org/NetSmartz) for Missing & Exploited Children. All rights reserved.

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

TALKING
TO

TEENS

ABOUT
SEXTING



Ask **questions** to make it clear you're comfortable discussing it.

Discuss what characterizes a **healthy relationship**.

Talk about **the risk**.





Sexting Resource: Tip Sheet

YOU SENT A SEXT. NOW WHAT?

NetSmartz

ONLY IT DIDN'T.

BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE!

YOU MAY FEEL LIKE THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO ESCAPE THIS SITUATION.

WHILE YOU CAN'T GET YOUR IMAGE BACK, YOU CAN TAKE STEPS TO:

- ★ GET IT REMOVED FROM WEBSITES.
- ★ HELP STOP IT FROM SPREADING.
- ★ GET EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.
- ★ DEAL WITH BULLIES.

USE THESE TIPS

What if I'm being blackmailed?

Blackmail is when someone tries to threaten or scare you into doing something. For example, teens may share sexual images with people they trust, only to have those people turn on them. They may threaten to send the images to teens' families unless the teens share more images.

If you're being blackmailed, you may feel helpless or guilty. You may think you don't have the right to say "no" because you shared the first image willingly. **WRONG!** Blackmail is illegal and you don't have to take it.

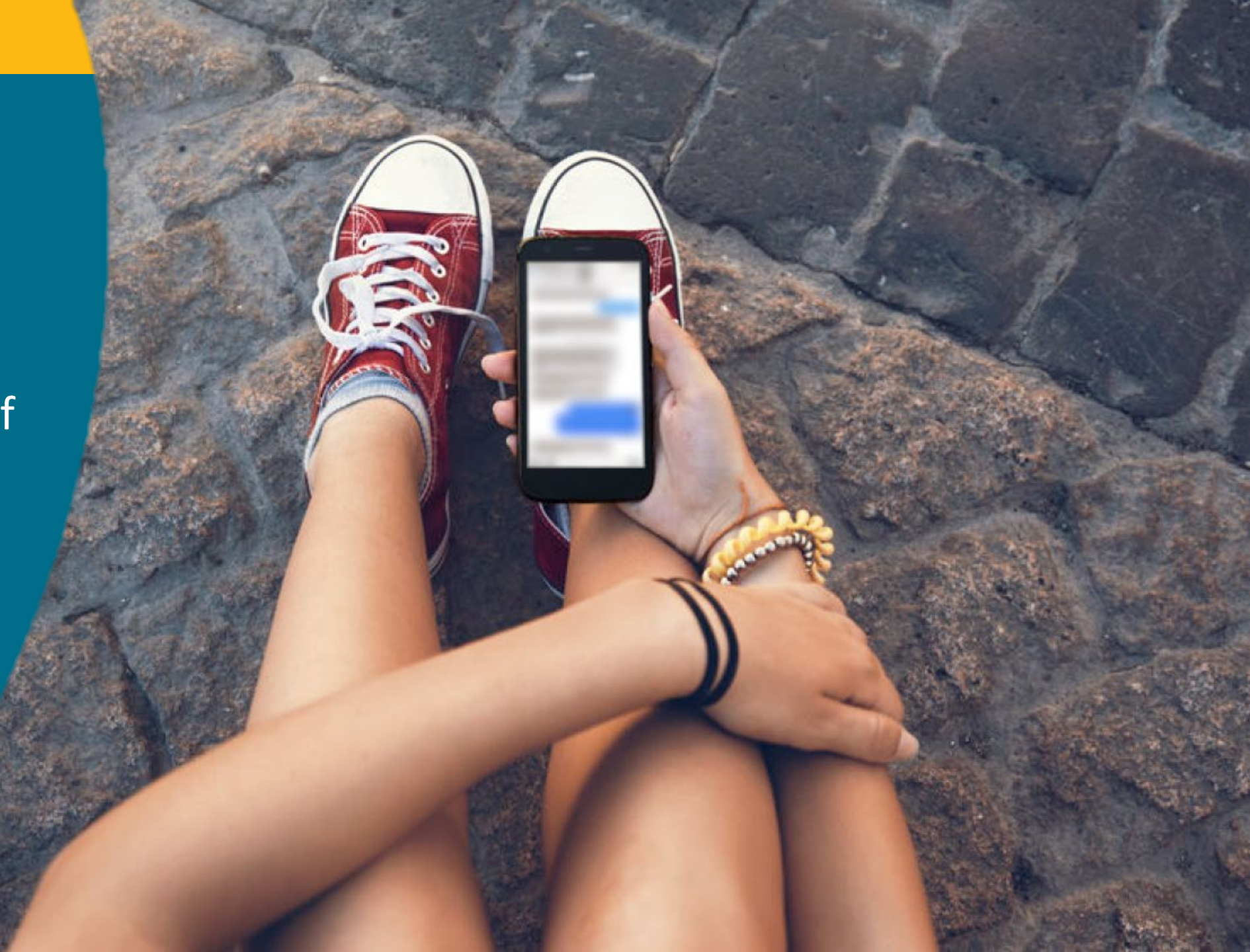
YOU SHOULD:

- Stop any communications with blackmailers. They'll try to use your conversations to threaten and manipulate you – don't give them the chance. Even if you have already started communicating with them, it's never too late to stop and report it.
- Block or remove the blackmailer from your contact list. If you decide to deactivate your accounts, contact the websites/apps for help.
- Make a report to the police and CyberTipline.org right away. Seriously. They can help. They may want to see any messages you've received from the blackmailer.

For more resources visit MissingKids.org/NetSmartz/Resources.
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NetSmartz

Online Enticement of Children for Sexual Acts



**NCMEC has received reports of
online enticement of children on
*almost every digital platform.***

Sextortion

is a form of child sexual exploitation where children are threatened or blackmailed, most often with the possibility of sharing with the public nude or sexual images of them, by a person who demands additional sexual content, sexual activity, or money from the child. This crime may happen when a child shared an image with someone.





Financial Sextortion Trends



Speed



Motivation



Volume



Aggressive Threats



Outcomes/ Suicide



Sextortion Resource: *It's Called Sextortion.* Poster

I'm being BLACKMAILED online over nude images of me! WHAT DO I DO?

It's called Sextortion.

Know that you are not alone.

Unfortunately, this happens to many teenagers. It's called Sextortion. It is a crime and it is not your fault.

Reach out to an adult you trust for support.

Talking about what is happening might be difficult, but there is hope.

Let us help you.

Paying money rarely stops the blackmailer but reporting it can and we can help get images of you down. Report it at CyberTipline.org.

¡Estoy siendo CHANTAJEADO por internet por mis fotos desnuda! ¿QUÉ DEBO HACER?

Si te está pasando Sextorsión...

Saber que no estás solo.

Desafortunadamente, esto les sucede a muchos adolescentes. Se llama Sextorsión y es un crimen. Recuerda que no es tu culpa.

Plática con un adulto a quien le tengas confianza para que puedas recibir apoyo.

Hablar de lo que está pasando puede ser difícil, pero hay esperanza.

Déjanos ayudarte.

Pagar el dinero rara vez detiene al chantajista, pero reportarlo puede hacerlo. También podemos ayudarte a bajar las imágenes del internet. Repórtelo en CyberTipline.org.

gethelp@ncmec.org 1-800-843-5678 NCMEC.org/sextortion

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

"I am a Survivor of Sextortion"

Video and Discussion Guide



I am a Survivor of Sextortion

This video shows some of the feelings that children may experience while going through sextortion. It also shows some of the forms of victimization and how those feelings kept them from reaching out for help. When you watch this video, you will demonstrate that sextortion is not their fault and that help is available to them. They should never face this alone. After watching the video, discuss some of the questions below with them. They should learn from them, empathize, and let them know that you are there to help.

What were some of the feelings the survivors experienced?

Fear

Shame

Guilt

It's crucial to reassure your child that it is normal to have intense emotions when experiencing sextortion. At the same time, it's as important to emphasize that help is available, and that if they experience sextortion, they are not alone. Make it clear they're not to blame and that you will help and support them regardless of the circumstances if they are ever victimized. Sextortion is especially devastating for teens because they are deeply influenced by emotions and highly value their reputation among their peers as they are exploring their independence and role in society. Support and guidance are vital to help teens navigate this challenging situation and mitigate its impact on their well-being and future. When discussing the potential risks of sending explicit images or messages, please provide resources they can use and share with their friends for help, such as **'Take It Down'** and the **'CyberTipline.'** Let your child know that in the unfortunate event that something goes wrong, you are there to help and support them.

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

"It's Called Sextortion"

Video and Discussion Guide



It's Called Sextortion

This video, "It's Called Sextortion," highlights some red flags to look for. Its purpose is to describe what sextortion is, how it can happen, and to promote bystander behaviors among peers. The video also provides guidance on what to do if you receive inappropriate requests or if you experience sextortion. After watching the video, you can use these questions to engage in a mindful conversation with kids about sextortion. Encourage them to think critically about this issue, help them develop safer choices, reassure them that you are there to support them, and offer additional resources.

How did Niko initially feel about the girl who messaged him online?

Encourage students to share their ideas. Likely answers: excited, happy, flattered.

Facilitators' Notes: Emphasize that feeling excited, curious, and wanted are normal and healthy ways to feel about someone, but we also have to be careful as we know people online may not be who they say they are.

Why was Luis suspicious when the "girl" reached out to Luis and

Luis was suspicious when the "girl" reached out to Luis and identified some red flags. For example, she was very forthcoming, saying things like, "If you show me yours, I'll show you mine." Luis doubted his feelings about the girl. He mentioned he thought she was being crazy when she reached out to Mateo. Maybe he doubted his initial feelings, but later, he witnessed what happened to his friend. It is important to trust what we feel and if something doesn't feel right, we should talk to a **trusted adult**.

Facilitators' Notes: Developing relationships online is a normal part of social development for children. It is challenging to discern intentions, whether we know them online or offline. When dealing with the normal curiosity, excitement, and the need to connect in relationships, it becomes more difficult to identify people's intentions as such. Helping our children trust their feelings and encouraging them to come and talk to us is an important role.



NCMEC.org/NetSmartz/Sextortion



Sextortion Resource: Tip Sheet

Sextortion: What Parents Should Know

Sextortion:
A form of child sexual exploitation where children are threatened or blackmailed, most often with the possibility of sharing with the public nude or sexual images of them by a person who demands additional sexual content, sexual activity or money from the child. This crime may happen when a child has shared an image with someone or when someone creates fake explicit content of the child.



How Do the Offenders Gain Access?
The victim often knows their offender, who is typically a current or former romantic partner. In other instances, the offender is someone the victim only knows online. In financial sextortion, the offender often makes initial contact online, and victimization happens quickly after that. Additionally, the offender might create explicit content using generative AI and use it to victimize the child.

- 1 Approach**
The offender typically initiates contact with a victim on a social media platform, using it to learn about the child's interests, friends, school, family, etc. They then ask the child to move to a second or third platform that uses encrypted messaging systems. The sextortion may also be perpetrated by an ex-romantic partner who received the image from the victim.
- 2 Coercive Tactics**
Offenders use various tactics, such as offering something of value (money, drugs) in exchange for sexual material, pretending to be younger and appear to have a romantic interest, creating fake sexual material of the child or hacking accounts to steal sexual images.
- 3 Threats**
The offender may use the threat of spreading the image to force the victim into staying in or refusing to end the relationship, acquiring money, sexual content or obtaining more sexual material from the child. They may also threaten to physically assault the child or their family, or ruin the child's life with false narratives.

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What Can You Do?

- 1 Get Involved**
 - **Actively participate** in your children's digital lives.
 - **Regular check-ins** about online interactions should be the norm.
 - **Set online and offline behavioral expectations.**
- 2 Talk About Sexuality and Relationships**
Have regular discussions about your family's expectations and values regarding sex and relationships. Discuss the characteristics of healthy relationships, such as having and respecting boundaries and practicing consent. Explain that both pressuring someone and being pressured into uncomfortable or unsafe sexual behaviors are not okay. Help children understand that they should never forward sexts they may receive from others, as limiting the image's spread reduces the risk of it falling into dangerous hands.
- 3 Empower Your Child**
 - Provide resources that your child can reach out to, such as **TakeItDown.NCMEC.org** and **CyberTipline.org**.
 - Teach your child how to report someone.
 - Remind them that sextortion is a crime, it is not their fault and you are here to help them.

For more resources, visit [NCMEC.org/NetSmartz](https://www.ncmec.org/NetSmartz)

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Reporting

**NCMEC's
approach to**

Prevention



Online Safety Program

for children & families 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

For more resources, visit [NCMEC.org/NetSmartz](https://www.ncmec.org/NetSmartz)



Resources from **NetSmartz®**



Presentations



Tip Sheets



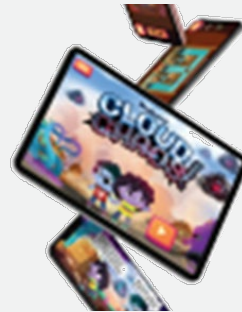
Activity Guides



NetSmartzKids.org



Videos



Online Games



Peer Education &
Leadership Kits



NCMEC.org/NetSmartz

NCMEC.org/NetSmartz



NCMEC's approach to

Prevention

Reporting

Removing Content



Help Removing Content: Report to the CyberTipline

- Anyone can make a report, even if you're not sure
- NCMEC will work with tech companies to remove sexual exploitive images/videos of minors
- This is how survivors/caregivers can connect with NCMEC support services

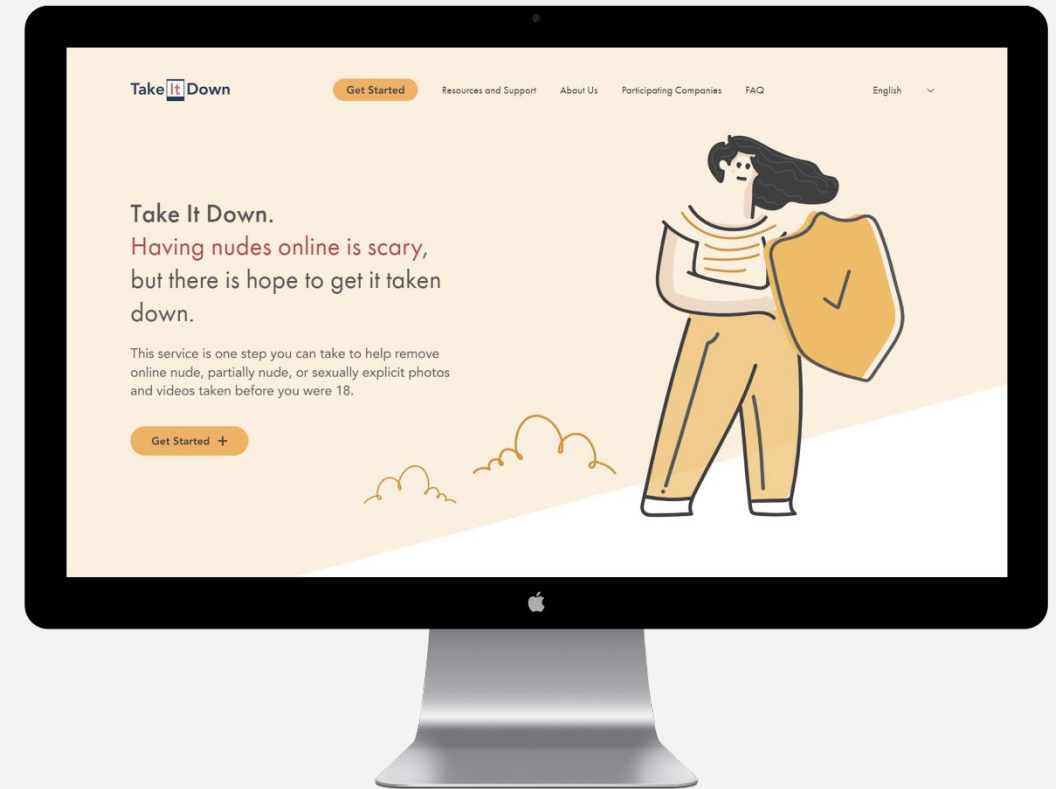


[CyberTipline.org](https://www.cybertipline.org)



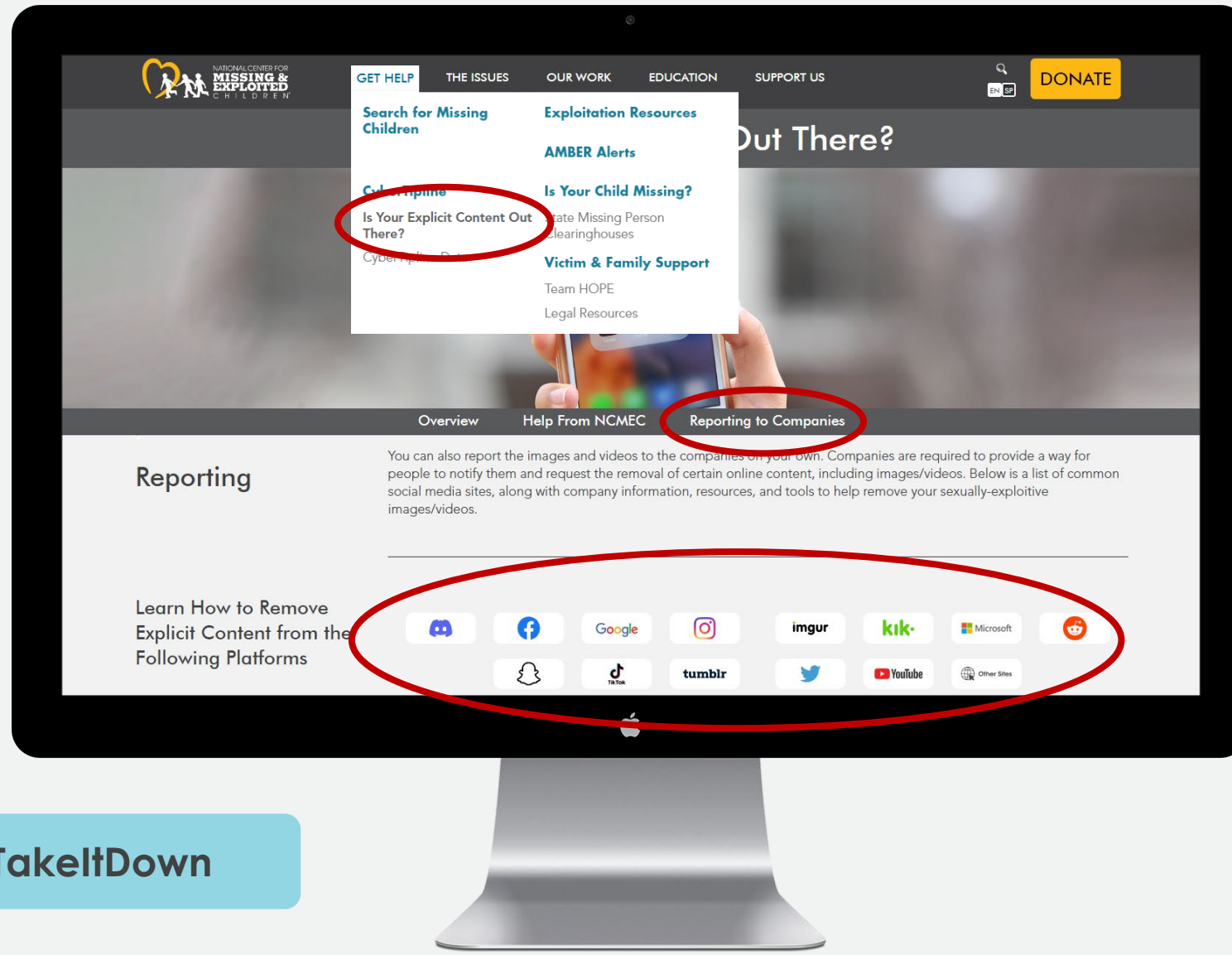
Help Removing Content: Report (Anonymously) to **TakelItDown.NCMEC.org**

- Free and anonymous
- 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





Help Removing Sexually Explicit Content



NCMEC.org/TakeItDown



NCMEC's approach to **Prevention**

Reporting

Removing Content

Training and Professional Development



Connect



Online Learning

On-demand trainings, resources and best practices related to missing and exploited children. New courses:

- Introduction to Child Sex Trafficking
- Child Sex Trafficking for Child Welfare Professionals
- Understanding CSAM and Its Impacts
- Working with Victims and Survivors of CSAM for Mental Health Professionals
- Working with Victims and Survivors of CSAM for Law Enforcement

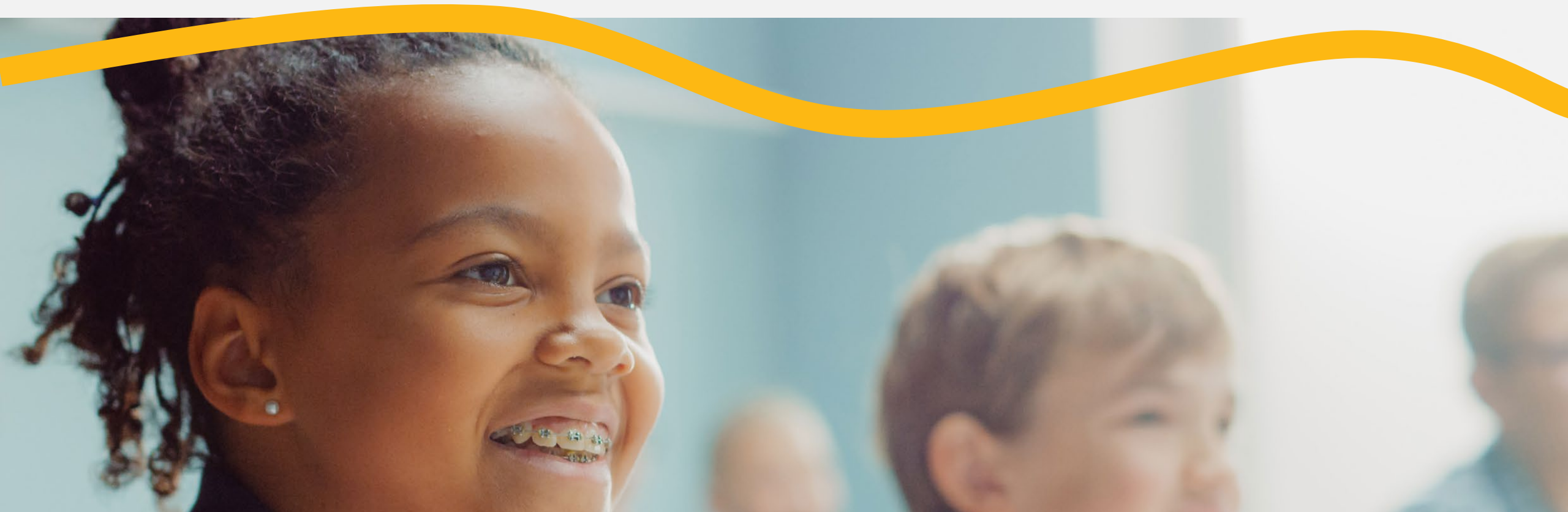
Connect.MissingKids.org





Community

EDUCATION
PARTNER





NCMEC's approach to **Prevention**

Reporting

Removing Content

Training and Professional Development

Emotional and Peer Support for Families



Support for Families & Caregivers

- Crisis Intervention
- Peer support network
- Mental health & community support referrals
- Reunification assistance
- Long-term emotional support
- Prevention strategies
- Legal referrals



All services are FREE.

Families do not have to have an active case to be eligible.

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





Ways to Leverage NCMEC

Resources

1

Implement NETSMARTZ as a comprehensive cyber safety curriculum

2

Make CyberTipline reports for any online sexual exploitation when a child is involved

3

Utilize NCMEC for services we can offer victims families

4

Reach out to NCMEC for help in removing content

5

Use NETSMARTZ tip sheets around the school and distribute to parents

Contact Information

Andy Komasinski

Outreach Manager

Aakomasinski@ncmec.org

Make a report or share a tip to
1-800-THE-LOST (843-5678) or
CyberTipline.org

**To request outreach materials, contact
outreach@NCMEC.org**



**For more resources, please visit
NCMEC.org**



@NCMEC

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