

SAFETY AT HOME

Fierce Freedom Online Safety Series Online Grooming and Exploitation Through Shared Images

Trafficking Definition

Sex or labor using *force, fraud or coercion* in exchange of something of value – i.e. money, drugs, the use of a car, cigarettes. Or any individual performing commercial sex who is under 18 years of age.

Why We Must Be Talking to Our Children / Young People

- Recent study shows 5,000 high-schoolers in Minnesota have traded sex for something of value – we can only assume the numbers are similar in WI.
- 70% of child sex trafficking victims are sold online. (Thorn Survey)
- 45% of teens solicited for sex interacted with online strangers. (Fight the New Drug)
- Predators use social network to glean information about victims. (Fight the New Drug)
- 73% of teens are on a social network. (Fight the New Drug)
- 1 in 4 teens girls have had nude photos sent to them online. (Fight the New Drug)

Sextortion Definition

The practice of extorting money or sexual favors from someone by threatening to reveal evidence of their sexual activity.

Revenge Porn Definition

The act of distributing intimate photography through different means without the individual's consent.

Warning Signs of Online Grooming

- Is your child **secretive** about the game they're playing or to whom they're talking?
- Are there texts and calls on their phone from numbers **you don't recognize**?
- Do they immediately **change the screen** when an adult walks into the room?
- Have they suddenly received any **expensive gifts**? i.e. jewelry, electronics, cryptocurrency

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Strategies to Help Prevent Grooming

- Teach body safety at an early age, as early as 3 years old
- Teach your children about grooming behaviors
- Help your children know they can come to you with concerns without fear of their feelings being minimized or getting in trouble.
- Be there to help them sort out complicated feelings. If they have been groomed for abuse, likely they have confusing emotions about the perpetrator.
- **Do not be afraid to talk to your children.** Children who are [educated are empowered](#) and have a greater chance of protecting themselves.

(<https://www.protectyoungminds.org/2017/10/26/10-ways-predators-grooming-kids/>)

Important Reminders

- Explain to your child that they must never, under any circumstance, accept gifts or rewards from someone online without your approval.
- Remind them if someone takes advantage of them it is *not* your fault! They should find someone they trust and report immediately.
- Utilize online monitoring software, i.e. *Bark*, *Disney Circle*, *Qustodio*
- Resource books like *Good Pictures Bad Pictures*, *God Made All of Me*, and websites like *Common Sense Media*, *Protect Young Eyes*, and *Protect Young Minds*

Questions or concerns?

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