YOU'RE NOT SEEING THIS.

A guide for parents & caregivers



The danger looks different now.

A photo. A profile. A message. A group chat. Ordinary parts of your child's day can become ways for someone to hurt them. Here's what to look for—and how to start talking.

The Photo

AI can turn an ordinary photo into a fake nude. Your child may never have sent an intimate photo at all. Whether they shared one or not, they deserve your support.

The Profile

Friends in common. The same school. Familiar interests. None of it proves who is behind an account. Ask your child how they know the person they're talking to.

The Message

"Pay me. You don't want me to send your pics to all of your friends, do you?" Someone threatens to share intimate images of your child unless they pay. The images could be real or fake. That's sextortion—and paying doesn't guarantee the threats will stop. The person making the threat may be someone your child knows.

The Group Chat

Rumors, threats, and images shared without permission can spread among classmates and friends. Encourage your child not to join in or pass them along—and to tell an adult they trust.

> **One in five young people who experienced an online sexual interaction turned to no one for support.**
>
> *Among U.S. survey respondents ages 9–17 who had these experiences, including sexual messages and requests for nude images.*
> *Source: Thorn, Youth Perspectives on Online Safety, 2025; published in 2026.*

ASK. LISTEN. STAY CALM.

ASK: "What happens when someone gets targeted online?" "What would make it hard to tell me?"

LISTEN: Give them time to explain. Start by hearing them out, not questioning every choice.

STAY CALM: "I'm glad you told me. You don't have to handle this alone." Focus on safety and support, not blame.

If something has happened, see page 2. »

IF SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED

Your child can get help even if they trusted the person, sent a photo, or already paid.

If anyone is in immediate danger, call 911.

Stop

Stop responding. Do not pay, send more images, or agree to meet. Help your child tell an adult they trust.

Save the details

Keep usernames, profile links, dates, payment requests, and threatening texts. Do not download, forward, request, or screenshot intimate images of a minor. Keep existing messages and account information available; ask law enforcement how to preserve them safely.

Report

Report suspected child sexual exploitation to **NCMEC's CyberTipline: report.cybertip.org** or **1-800-843-5678** (1-800-THE-LOST), available 24/7. New York State Police also directs families there. Report the account to the platform and block it. **Do not stay in contact to collect evidence.**

For threats or extortion, contact local police, New York State Police, or the FBI: tips.fbi.gov or 1-800-225-5324 (1-800-CALL-FBI).

Get school support

For bullying affecting a New York public school, contact its Dignity Act coordinator or use the district's bullying reporting form. Do not forward intimate images. A school report does not replace reporting exploitation or threats.

Get personal support

Orange County Crime Victim Assistance Program: 845-862-8200 (Goshen), Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Support, referrals, and help navigating the criminal justice process.

New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline: Call 800-942-6906 or text 844-997-2121 for confidential support 24/7.

These services offer support and guidance; contact police to report a crime.

Get help with an intimate image

Take It Down may help limit the spread of nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit images taken before age 18 on participating platforms: **takeitdown.ncmec.org**. The image stays on your device. Removal is not guaranteed across the internet.

Do not download an image or have someone send it to you to use this service. If you do not have it on the original device, or need help with a fake image, ask CyberTipline for guidance.

More help and sources: davidmhoovler.com/online-harm

This message is brought to you by David M. Hoovler, Orange County District Attorney.

