# Reporting Sextortion and Sadistic Online Exploitation of a Child

The full list of where to report, in Australia and internationally, when a child is being sexually extorted, blackmailed with images, or targeted by a violent online group, with every reporting link written out in full so you can act fast.

**A SAFE ON SOCIAL GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CARERS**

**Read this first.** If a child is being sexually extorted, blackmailed with a nude or a fake image, or drawn into a violent online group that pressures them to send images, hurt themselves, hurt others, or hurt an animal, the single most important thing to know is that this is a crime against the child, not something the child has done wrong, and reporting it is the right move. Offenders rely on shame and silence to keep a child paying, sending, or complying, so the fastest way to break their hold is to tell a trusted adult and report it to the people whose job this is. This sheet gives you every reporting channel, in Australia and internationally, with the links written out in full. Three rules run through all of it: do not pay and do not comply, do not delete anything before you have saved a record, and report to the platform and to the authorities, not just one.

## 1 If a child is in immediate danger, act now

If a child is at risk of harm right now, if they are talking about suicide or self-harm, or if someone is threatening to hurt them, this is an emergency. Call Triple Zero (000) in Australia, or your local emergency number, or go to the nearest emergency department. Reporting to the services below is vital, but it does not replace emergency help when a child is in danger this minute.

## 2 Before you report: save the evidence, do not pay

A calm few minutes of capturing what is happening will make every report that follows far stronger. Police and the reporting bodies ask you to keep whatever you can, before anything is deleted or an account disappears.

- **Do not pay and do not comply** – paying or sending more almost never makes it stop, it signals the child will keep complying. It is normal to feel panic, but stopping contact is safer than feeding it.
- **Save a record before you delete anything** – screenshot the messages, profiles, usernames, links and any images or threats. Note the platform, the account names, dates and times. Keep it somewhere secure and do not share it around.
- **Then stop the contact** – once you have a record, block the account and turn on the platform's privacy settings. Reporting still works after blocking.
- **Reassure the child** – make it completely clear they are not in trouble and will not lose their phone for telling you. Their honesty is what lets you act.

## 3 Where to report in Australia

Start here if the child or the offender is in Australia. You can use more than one of these, and for serious cases you should.

- **Police, emergency** – Triple Zero (000) if a child is in immediate danger.
- **ACCCE, online child sexual exploitation** – the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation takes reports of online grooming, sexual extortion, and abuse material, and passes them to police. Report at https://www.accce.gov.au/report

- **eSafety Commissioner, image-based abuse and cyber abuse** – Australia's online safety regulator can help get intimate images, including fakes, taken down, and can act on serious threats and abuse. Report at https://www.esafety.gov.au/report
- **Crime Stoppers, anonymous** – if you want to pass on information without giving your name, call 1800 333 000 or report at https://www.crimestoppers.com.au
- **Kids Helpline, support for the child** – free, confidential counselling for young people 5 to 25, any time, on 1800 55 1800 or at https://kidshelpline.com.au

## 4 Global reporting services you can use from anywhere

These international services accept reports from around the world and are the right places when the platform, the offender, or the images cross borders, which they almost always do.

- **NCMEC CyberTipline, the global report line** – the US National Center for Missing & Exploited Children runs the world's main tipline for child sexual exploitation, used by the major platforms. Report at https://report.cybertip.org or call 1-800-843-5678.
- **Internet Watch Foundation, report the imagery** – the IWF finds and removes child sexual abuse images and videos, and takes reports from anywhere. Report at https://report.iwf.org.uk
- **Report Remove, for young people in the UK** – a Childline and IWF tool that lets an under-18 ask for a nude image of themselves to be removed, at https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove
- **INHOPE, find your country's hotline** – if you are outside Australia, INHOPE lists the national reporting hotline for child sexual abuse material in each member country, at https://www.inhope.org

## 5 Sadistic online exploitation and violent online groups

There is a darker, organised form of this abuse that parents and schools need to know exists. Law enforcement describes networks, known by names such as '764' and 'the Com', whose members deliberately hunt for vulnerable children online, then use grooming, blackmail and threats to coerce them into producing sexual images, cutting or otherwise harming themselves, harming siblings or pets, or livestreaming abuse, often filming it to trade as trophies and pushing the child further each time. It is sextortion fused with sadism, and it is a serious crime that police forces are actively investigating. If you see signs of this, do not try to handle the group yourself and do not engage with them. Save what you can and report to police, because these are organised offenders.

- **In Australia** – call Triple Zero (000) if the child is at risk now, and report to the ACCCE at https://www.accce.gov.au/report and to eSafety at https://www.esafety.gov.au/report
- **FBI, in the US and internationally** – the FBI takes reports of these violent online networks worldwide. Report at https://www.ic3.gov or https://tips.fbi.gov, or call 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324).
- **NCMEC CyberTipline, anywhere** – report the exploitation and any images at https://report.cybertip.org
- **Preserve everything, engage with nothing** – keep usernames, group names, platforms, links and screenshots for police, and do not reply to threats or demands.

## 6 Report on the platform as well

Wherever it is happening, Snapchat, Instagram, Discord, TikTok, a game chat or anywhere else, report the account and the content inside the app too, using its own report or safety tools, and screenshot that you have done so. Platform reporting can freeze or remove an account quickly, but it is not a substitute for reporting to the authorities above, so do both.

## 7 Practical tips

| For parents & carers | For educators |
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| ● Lead with calm: the child is the victim, not the culprit.<br>● Do not pay, do not send more, do not delete before saving a record.<br>● Screenshot accounts, links, threats and images; note dates and times.<br>● Report to ACCCE and eSafety, and to the platform.<br>● Call 000 if there is any immediate danger or talk of self-harm.<br>● Get support for the child early, Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800. | ● Know the two Australian channels: ACCCE and eSafety.<br>● Follow your school's child protection and mandatory reporting steps.<br>● Preserve evidence; do not investigate a violent group yourselves.<br>● Escalate immediate danger to police on 000 without delay.<br>● Refer the student to wellbeing support and Kids Helpline. |

## 8 Where to get help & the rules

**Report it.** In Australia, report online child sexual exploitation and sexual extortion to the ACCCE (https://www.accce.gov.au/report) and image-based abuse to eSafety (https://www.esafety.gov.au/report); call 000 in an emergency. Anywhere in the world, report to the NCMEC CyberTipline (https://report.cybertip.org). For distress, Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800. Save the evidence first, and do not pay.

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| **Australia, report:** ACCCE accce.gov.au/report · eSafety esafety.gov.au/report · Police 000 | **Australia, support:** Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 · Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 |
| **Global tipline:** NCMEC CyberTipline report.cybertip.org · 1-800-843-5678 | **Remove images:** Take It Down takeitdown.ncmec.org · IWF report.iwf.org.uk |
| **Find a national hotline:** INHOPE inhope.org | **Violent online groups:** FBI ic3.gov / tips.fbi.gov · plus ACCCE and NCMEC |

*The laws behind these reports, rules change fast and vary by country; check what applies where you live.*

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC)
- Australia, Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth): using a carriage service to procure or groom a child, to menace or harass, and offences for child abuse material
- Australia, Online Safety Act 2021: eSafety's image-based abuse scheme and removal powers
- Australia, state and territory mandatory reporting and child protection laws (they differ by state)
- United States, 18 U.S.C. 2258A: online services must report child sexual exploitation to the NCMEC CyberTipline
- United Kingdom, Online Safety Act 2023 and the Protection of Children Act 1978
- International coordination via INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database and the WeProtect Global Alliance

**The heart of it.** Sextortion and sadistic online exploitation run on a child's shame and silence, so the moment a child tells you, the offender's power starts to break. Do not pay, do not delete before you have saved a record, and report to both the platform and the authorities. In Australia that is the ACCCE and eSafety, with 000 for any immediate danger; anywhere in the world it is the NCMEC CyberTipline. Reporting is not overreacting, it is how these crimes get stopped and how the images come down. And make sure the child hears the one thing that matters most, that this was done to them, it is not their fault, and you will get through it together. (This guide touches on self-harm, if you are worried about a young person, please reach a helpline or professional.)