

# Sextortion

Sextortion is a combination of the words “sex” and “extortion”. It is a non-physical form of coercion where a perpetrator threatens to send out someone’s private or sensitive materials, such as intimate pictures, if they do not provide them with more sexual images, sexual favors, or money.

Anyone can sextort victims in attempt to harass, embarrass, or control them.

While it can happen to anyone, sextortion is disproportionately affecting teenage boys. In December 2022, the FBI issued a national public safety alert on financial sextortion schemes, citing over 7,000 reports of online financial sextortion of minors, of which 3,000 victims were as young as eight years old and were primarily boys, and more than a dozen suicides.



In the first 6 months of 2022 compared to 2021, reported incidents of sextortion increased by **1,000%**



**5%** of U.S. Middle and High School students have reported being victims of sextortion



Victims of sextortion and nonconsensual pornography suffer from depression, anxiety, **PTSD** and are more likely to engage in **self-harm**



**~50%** of sextortion victims reported having lost a relationship with a friend, family member or partner due to victimization



**35%** of Gen Z respondents in a Snapchat survey said they have been asked to share sexual photos or videos



## Resources

How do I report?

As technology evolves, so do ways to report technology-facilitated abuse! These resources can help you report technology-facilitated abuse and connect you to experts who can help. All technology-facilitated abuse can be reported to local law enforcement, but it is not necessarily chargeable.

If you need help reporting sextortion, image-based abuse, or deepfakes, scan the QR below:

Resources



For more information or to get involved:

✉ [opdvpublicinfo@opdv.ny.gov](mailto:opdvpublicinfo@opdv.ny.gov)

☎ **518-457-5800**

🌐 [opdv.ny.gov](http://opdv.ny.gov)

NEW YORK STATE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE HOTLINE

TEXT.

CALL.

CHAT.

**844.997.2121**

**800.942.6906**

**OPDV.NY.GOV**



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AVAILABLE IN MOST LANGUAGES.



Office for the  
Prevention of  
Domestic Violence



# Technology and Gender-Based Violence

**What is it?** — Understanding the types of technology-facilitated abuse and how to help survivors.

# What is Technology-Facilitated Abuse?

Technology-facilitated abuse (TFA) or technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is the misuse or manipulation of technology to commit any harmful threat or act directed at an individual or group based on actual or perceived sex, gender, gender identity, sex characteristics, or sexual orientation.

## Technology-Facilitated Domestic Violence (TFDV)

A pattern of behavior and coercive tactics perpetrated against an intimate partner with the goal of establishing and maintaining power and control through the misuse or manipulation of technology.

## Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV)

The misuse or manipulation of technology to impose sexual activity or conduct on an individual without their consent.

## Types of TFA

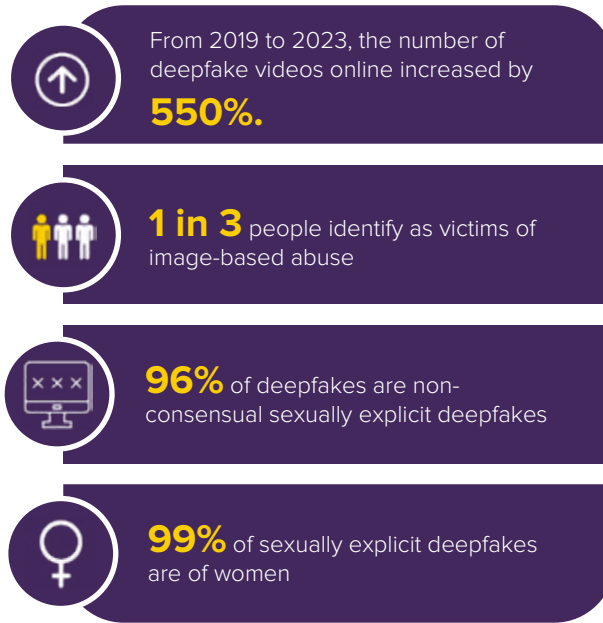
- ⓪ Sexual Extortion “Sextortion”
- ⓪ Sexually explicit deepfakes and AI generated images
- ⓪ Nonconsensual intimate image (NCII) sharing
- ⓪ Text/call/message “bombing”
- ⓪ Hacking into, manipulating or blocking access to accounts
- ⓪ Misusing passwords
- ⓪ Cyberstalking
- ⓪ Online Impersonation
- ⓪ Doxing
- ⓪ Cyberflashing
- ⓪ Online sexual exploitation
- ⓪ Online sexual harassment
- ⓪ Sexual assault in virtual reality

## Deepfakes and AI-Generated Images

A deepfake is an image or recording that has been altered or manipulated to misrepresent someone doing or saying something that they never did. These images/recordings are often generated through the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology.

A sexually explicit deepfake shows someone performing a sexual act or saying something of a sexual nature that they never did.

Deepfakes are commonly used as a method of manipulation, extortion, or revenge.



## Red Flags

Warning signs someone may be a victim:

- ⓪ Fear of being away from technology
- ⓪ Sudden behavior changes
- ⓪ Constantly being on their phone or social media
- ⓪ A new online “friend”
- ⓪ Panicking at phone notifications, hiding screens
- ⓪ Threatening to commit suicide and openly talking about death

Warning signs someone may be a perpetrator:

- ⓪ You don’t know them and they added you as a friend
- ⓪ They are controlling and want access to personal accounts
- ⓪ You’re being encouraged to keep your conversations/ friendship a secret
- ⓪ They pressure you to send intimate images, videos, and/or messages
- ⓪ They want to move the conversation to other apps (aka WhatsApp, Snapchat, etc.)
- ⓪ They create or distribute synthetically altered sexual images, video, and/or audio of others
- ⓪ They mock, threaten, stalk, humiliate, or intimidate you

## Legality

### Deepfakes

In New York, **Penal Law Section 245.15** protects New Yorkers from the unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image.

### Sextortion

In New York, **Penal Law Sections 135.60 and 135.65** protect New Yorkers from coercion, including sextortion.