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BEWARE OF ONLINE **SEXTORTION**

Sextortion is a form of online abuse, wherein the cybercriminal makes use of various channels like instant messaging apps, SMS, online dating apps, social media platforms, porn sites etc., to lure the users into intimate video/audio chats and makes them pose nude or obtains revealing pictures from them. The fraudsters later make use of this material to harass, embarrass, threaten, exploit and blackmail the victims.

Online Sextortion occurs when a fraudster threatens to circulate your private and sensitive material online, if you do not provide images of a sexual nature, sexual favors, or money.

The perpetrator may also threaten to harm your friends or relatives by using information they have obtained from electronic devices unless you comply with their demands.

Dangers that victims may face

- 01 ● Blackmail
- 02 ● Abuse & Exploitation
- 03 ● Threats of public humiliation
- 04 ● Harassment

Warning signs that may indicate victimization

- Signs of fear, nervousness, anxiety, depression
- Isolating self and being very reactive & emotional
- Feeling desperate and frustrated
- Having suicidal thoughts and self harming behavior

Channels used for trapping the victims

- 01 ● Messaging apps
- 02 ● Dating apps
- 03 ● Social media platforms ...
- 04 ● Porn sites, etc.,

01

The fraudsters try to lure the users into sharing intimate content in different ways:

- Posting messages for video/audio chat
- Using fake accounts/profiles
- Creating pages/ad campaigns



The users get victimized when they:

- Pay for such services and pose nude or in compromising position in video call.
- Accepts or sends friend requests to the fake account/profile and involves in intimate interaction posing nude in video chats, sends revealing pictures etc.

02

03

The fraudster records video/ takes screenshot/ takes pictures/makes use of revealing pictures/ morphs the pictures sent.



The fraudster starts blackmailing the victim leading to sextortion. The users of porn sites may also fall prey sextortion, when their chats/ video calls on the porn sites are used for blackmailing by fraudsters.

04

Advisory to safeguard yourself against online sextortion:



Never share any compromising images, posts, videos of yourself to anyone, no matter who they are.



Never pick up any calls / video calls from anonymous number.



Turn off your electronic devices and web cameras when you are not using them.



Use two factor authentication with strong passwords and different passwords for different your social media accounts.



Enable privacy and security features in all your social media accounts.



Do not suffer in silence, know that you are not alone, reach out and seek help from trusted family and friends.



Avoid browsing the suspicious websites and websites fully which are not aware.



On social media or dating platforms, be cautious of unknown users who try to move the conversation to another interactive platform very quickly.