



October 2, 2023: The Broomfield Police Department, in conjunction with law enforcement agencies across the state, is warning community members to be aware of “Sextortion” scammers impersonating law enforcement working for the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit.

Sextortion is a form of child exploitation where children are threatened or blackmailed most often associated with producing an explicit image. In these cases, victims are interacting with someone online which eventually leads to sharing an explicit image with someone they thought they knew or trusted. In many cases, they are targeted by individuals they met online who obtained the images through deceit, coercion or some other method.

The victim is then informed that to remove themselves from the situation, they must send money, a money order, or a gift card to an address of the scammer. As a reminder, police will never ask for any type of payment.

Predators use phones to stalk and blackmail children on social media and dating apps. One common sextortion trend targets boys between 14 and 17 years old. Adult predators pretending to be young girls fake romantic interest in the victims through gaming platforms, apps and social media sites. The predators carrying out this crime have honed their techniques and approaches to maximize their chances of success. The following are some common tactics these predators use to entice victims:

- Developing a false rapport with the victim.
- Secretly recording explicit videos and messages during chats.
- Using multiple identities to contact the child.
- Pretending to be younger or a member of the opposite sex.
- Hacking accounts to steal sexual images.
- Threatening to commit suicide if the victim refuses to send images.

Visiting public social media profiles to find out more about the victim, including accessing the victim’s friend list and searching for other personal information that may harm the victim’s reputation.

A variety of names of local law enforcement officers including ICAC detectives have been used in these predatory scams, and the scammers claim to work locally or from various agencies nationwide. If you or someone you know is a victim, help is available.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) CyberTipline (CyberTipline.org) gives the public and electronic service providers the ability to report suspected child sexual exploitation, including sextortion and online enticement. After NCMEC



completes its review of a tip it receives, it compiles a report that becomes available to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Let NCMEC help get images of you down. Visit MissingKids.org/IsYourExplicitContentOutThere to learn more.

NCMEC also offers a service called Take It Down, which helps remove nude, partially nude or sexually explicit photos and videos of underage people by assigning a unique digital fingerprint, called a hash value, to the images or videos. Online platforms can use those hash values to detect these images or videos on their public or unencrypted services and take action to remove this content. (takeitdown.ncmec.org/)

Additional Information about Sextortion:

- [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)
- [Department of Homeland Security](#)
- [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#)

The Colorado Springs Police Department is the lead agency for the Colorado Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force which is comprised of approximately 98 affiliate law enforcement agencies throughout the state. The Colorado ICAC Task Force investigates subjects who sexually exploit and lure Colorado's most vulnerable victims. The Colorado Springs ICAC Task Force is comprised of detectives from the Colorado Springs Police Department, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Special Agents with Homeland Security Investigations, and a Special Agent with the Department of Army Criminal Investigation Division.

Broomfield Police: 911 or Non-Emergency 303-438-6400