



ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Online sexual exploitation of children is when someone uses a child's vulnerability to engage in a sexual conversation, share sexual images, asks for sexual favors, or more by offering something to them. These interactions may start as a trusted connection, a relationship, or even a stranger online but very quickly turn into something more.

Such as:

- Exchange or manipulation of nude images or videos from a child (this includes sexting).
- Offering or giving something valuable to the child for sexual images or videos.
- Threatening to expose a child's sexual images or videos if they don't send more.

Internet-enabled devices and apps, like social media, video games, messenger services and video sharing are being used most often to exploit children.

When children are exploited online their victimization can continue repeatedly through the sharing of images or videos across the internet forever.

90%
of exploitation
cases seen at
Children's Cove
start **ONLINE**

**CHILDREN
MAY MEET**
an online perpetrator
in-person within
**A COUPLE
OF DAYS,**
and in some cases within
HOURS

How to Reduce the Risk of Online Sexual Exploitation

To reduce the risks for your child:

- Talk about internet safety with your children and develop family rules and a safety plan for being online.
- Have regular and ongoing conversations about your family's internet activities, just as you would with sports, friends, and day-to-day life.
- Tell your children they should never meet with or call someone they've only met online.
- Tell them to talk to you if anyone makes them feel scared or uncomfortable online or asks them for personal information or to meet them.

What to do if your child has been sexually exploited:

If your child tells you they have sent a nude image or were a victim of online sexual exploitation:

- Remain calm. Even if you are angry, scared or frustrated, showing your child you're calm and know what to do is important.
- Don't take quick action such as deleting images or messages; these may be important to effectively report and get help.
- Immediately contact your local police department and Children's Cove.

Once a photo is sent most children do not tell an adult until they feel they are in "too deep"

Even if your child willingly sent a picture or met with someone – asking for support and resources can help.

If a child is in immediate danger call 911.

To learn more and how to reduce the sexual exploitation of children in our community, please contact us.



**Children's
COVE**
The Cape & Islands
Child Advocacy Center



508.375.0410 • [childrenscove.org](https://www.childrenscove.org)

Individuals pictured are models and are used for illustrative purposes only.