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Electronic Sexual Image Extortion

What it is and how to help prevent and stop it...

Not long ago, making prank calls was the worst trouble a group of teens could get into with a telephone. But today, predators use phones to stalk and blackmail teens on social media and dating apps. The act of threatening to share nude or explicit images – is more common than you may think, and cases affecting young children, teens and adults have increased exponentially in the past two years. In fact, Homeland Security Investigations received over 3,000 tips in fiscal year 2022.

It starts simply enough: A teen responds to an online request to expose parts of their body on a webcam or send a nude photo to a new online “friend.” The next thing the teen knows, their new friend threatens to expose them by publicizing the photos – unless they pose for more explicit photos or send money.

Traditionally this occurs when a victim is threatened or blackmailed into providing more sexual imagery; the predator threatens to share their nude or sexual images with the public. Financial extortion occurs when a predator demands money or gift cards in exchange for keeping their sexual images private.

The skilled, ruthless individuals 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 their victim’s reputation.

Open lines of communication are the best defense against sexual image extortion. The embarrassment children feel from falling victim to these schemes often prevents them from coming forward to a parent, teacher, caregiver or law enforcement, so a single offender may have hundreds of undiscovered victims around the world. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to have conversations with their children early on regarding their online activity.

Information gathered from the [Official Website of the Department of Homeland Security](#).

SIU Campus Resources

[SIU Police](#)

618-453-3771

[Parking Division](#)

618-453-5369

[Counseling Center](#)

618-453-5371

[Wellness Center](#)

618-536-4441

Student Health Services

618-453-3311

[Night Safety Transit](#)

618-453-2212

Carbondale Resources

[Carbondale Police](#)

618-457-3200

[Empowerment Center](#)

618-529-2324

[Memorial Hospital](#)

618-549-0721

Services Provided[Crime Prevention & Programs](#)[Report Suspicious Activity](#)[Campus Emergency](#)[Response Guide](#)[Night Safety Transit](#)[Campus Map](#)[Parking Map](#)[Daily Crime Log](#)[FOIA Request Form](#)[SIU Campus Crime Report](#)[Safety Awareness Facts and
Educations](#)

PERSONAL SAFETY

There is no one sure way to prevent violence against a person because every situation is different. However, there are steps you can take to reduce the risk of being targeted. Risk awareness, reduction, recognition, and avoidance strategies can be implemented into your everyday life.

The following strategies are not demands from the police, but they should be thought of as considerations. Evaluate and apply each strategy to your own life and situation with specific circumstances.

Be Aware

Do not ignore the fear or crime, instead, face it with courage. Too many believe crime will not happen to them, causing a person to not be mentally alert to their surroundings and prepared to react. When you go somewhere, have a route planned. Walk with confidence, head up and looking around for suspicious people on your route. Do not wear headphones on/in both ears, as you cannot hear what's around you. Develop a plan of action if something happens to change your original plans, something happens to you, or you need help.

Reduction Strategies

Keep your room/house doors locked, including bathroom doors in suite style accommodations. Get to know your roommate(s) and any guests in your room. Do not allow anyone into the building you do not know. Do not loan your keys to anyone. If your keys are lost, report the lost keys immediately for replacements.

Try to park in a well-lit area whenever possible. Remember where your car is parked so you can get there without delay. Visually check your vehicle and the area around it before getting in. Once inside the car, lock the doors. Turn your car on and leave. Keep your valuables out of sight.

If you meet someone and would like to see them again, get their phone number – this puts you in control. Always get the name of the person you are dating. Nicknames do not identify a person. Consider meeting at a public location and drive yourself to that location. Make sure a friend knows where you are going and who you are meeting.

Recognition

Using the strategies above, identify areas that you need to improve. Recognizing areas of improvement will make you think about personal safety in all situations. Recognize a problem, find a solution, and learn to avoid possible dangerous situations.

Avoidance

Your overall awareness will increase reaction time; however, placing obstacles between you and a dangerous situation will allow you to plan for alternate routes or call for help. Obstacles can be anything physical in the environment, friends, beliefs, the police, or anything that put something between you and potential harm.

The ONLY confrontation you are GUARANTEED to survive EVERY TIME is the one you are never involved in.

R.A.D Systems of Self-Defense

February Calendar

**Women's Basketball****vs. Murray State****February 19th @ TBA****Men's Basketball****vs. Bradley****February 19th @ TBA**



Additional Resources

[Office of Equity and Compliance](#)

618-453-4807

[Dean of Students](#)

618-453-2461

[Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

618-536-2338

[Saluki Cares](#)

618-536-2338

[Salukis on Your Side](#)

618-453-3311

[Veteran Services](#)

618-453-1335

[The Clinical Center](#)

618-453-2361



The Rave Mobile Safety alert system is used to send emergency text messages to cellphones and to campus email addresses of students, faculty and staff. The message may alert you to an emergency situation, including university closures, asking you to take action or both.

SIGN UP [HERE](#)

WHAT IS STALKING?

Stalking is a pattern of behavior that makes you feel afraid, nervous, harassed, or in danger. It is when someone repeatedly contacts you, follows you, sends you things, talks to you when you don't want them to, or threatens you. Stalking behaviors can include:

Knowing your schedule.

Showing up at places you go.

Sending mail, e-mail, and pictures.

Calling or texting repeatedly.

Contacting you or posting about you on social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc).

Writing letters.

Damaging your property.

Creating a website about you.

Sending unwanted gifts or cards.

Stealing things that belong to you.

Any other actions to contact, harass, track, or frighten you.

Over 7.5 million people are stalked in one year in the United States. People age 18-24 years experience the highest rate of stalking.

If you think you are being stalked, contact local law enforcement, any Campus Security Authority, SIU employee, or the Office of Equity and Compliance. For more information about stalking, click the link to the [Stalking Resource Center](#).

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PRESENTATIONS

DPS offers several educational crime prevention programs and safety services to the campus and surrounding communities. The crime prevention program is comprised of officers who provide public relations programming by request.

Available programs include:

- ◆ Alcohol and drug education and awareness
- ◆ Basic crime prevention including theft awareness
- ◆ Sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking awareness
- ◆ Setting boundaries and consent
- ◆ Violence Prevention

To schedule an event, contact Officer Kevin Cox at 453-3771 or kevinc@dps.siu.edu



Follow Us!

Please "like" our Southern Illinois University- Carbondale Department Facebook page. You can also follow us on Twitter at [SIUC Police](#). We provide information regarding local events, safety tips and press releases for major incidents. You can also send us your questions through private messages and tips on any recent crimes that have taken place.

[Facebook.com/siuc.dps](https://www.facebook.com/siuc.dps)

[twitter.com/SIUC Police](https://twitter.com/SIUC_Police)



Survivor Support & Confidential Advising Services

Wellness and Health Promotion Services is home to SIU's survivor support program called Confidential Advising Services. Confidential Advising Services is dedicated to providing survivor-centered assistance to SIU students that have experienced sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking. Our goal is to help survivors find the support, resources and information they need to safely continue their studies. If you are a friend or loved one of a survivor, information on what you can do to help is also available.

Any currently enrolled SIU student that has experienced sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking can get help from a Confidential Advisor.

WHAT CAN THEY HELP ME WITH?

- Emotional support and non-judgmental listening.
- Information about reporting options.
- Assistance with filing reports and notifying local law enforcement.
- Accessing academic support.
- Changes to on campus living arrangements.
- Changes to on campus work assignments.
- Changes to dining assignments.
- Transportation assistance.
- Obtaining protective orders and safety planning.

Resources and referrals to other services including medical care, counseling services, legal resources and more.

[SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT](#)

[SALUKI HEALTH PORTAL](#) [click](#)

Phone: 618-536-4441

In-person: Wellness and Health Promotion Services, first floor of the Student Health Center

Virtual visits are also available.