



Do It for James Foundation
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- 1. My child is not at risk of online sexual abuse.**
 - a. All Children are at risk for online sexual abuse with internet access. It is best to start having talks regarding how to spot a scammer as early as possible.
- 2. Online Sexual abuse mostly affects other countries.**
 - a. Online sexual abuse can affect anyone regardless of cultural background, economic status, or upbringing.
- 3. Tech companies have rules in place to keep kids safe.**
 - a. Although there are rules set in place to spot certain scammers, you may run into situations where there is not enough time to intervene. Please take the time to put safe words in place with your children and young adults to ensure their safety.
- 4. There are laws that will keep my kids safe online.**
 - a. Although the Social Media Parental Act was passed in July of 2023 to help hold social media accountable for online safety, this is a group effort. We have to continue to work together and educate ourselves and children about online safety.
- 5. I can't do much to help stop online sexual abuse.**
 - a. The more we raise awareness and make online sexual abuse conversations normal, the more we can help to stop online sexual abuse. Yes, there will still be times where online predators will take prey on our children, however the more we have conversations with our youth, the more we can stop online sexual abuse earlier, money fraud and prevent self-harm.
- 6. Once my picture is on the internet it is there to stay.**
 - a. There is an application that has been developed by NCMEC (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children) called "Take It Down". If your child is under the age of 18, you can have your picture wiped clean and have a weight lifted off your child's shoulders and less embarrassment. If you can read more about this application at <https://takeitdown.ncmec.org>
- 7. They took their life over the embarrassment of a picture. It was just a picture.**
 - a. Most of the time it is NOT just a picture. There are many times continued harassment, threats and black mailing that follow. Regarding sextortion, it is always more than just a picture.

This is a Do It for James Foundation Fact Sheet. All information provided above is based of research, personal experiences or actual experiences that the DIFJF has helped people through. Although this may not be your exact experience you can use the above information as a learning tool for all youth.



8. You block them and they will go away.

- a. Much of the time, scammers have found additional ways to contact your child than through the original application they connected through. In many cases, victims of sextortion had to change their phone number and delete all social media applications.

9. It is just a threat; they really won't send my picture.

- a. Many times, this is not just a threat. They will find people the victim knows and send the victim's picture to that person or people. The predator does this as a tactic to receive more money from the actual victim or from someone else who cares. Please talk to your child, let them know that it will be okay, and you all can work together to overcome this situation. There may be a little embarrassment, but you can get the picture wiped from the internet and work with the authorities to report the situation.

10. My kid is tough, this won't happen to them.

- a. Although your child may be tough, we never know what may push them over the age or the battles they are facing that day. We cannot continue to expect our children to fight battles against professional con artists. It is best to always prepare for the worst and have a conversation with your child to ensure that they know what to do.

11. I check my child's phone and have parental controls. I will have time to notice the signs of my child becoming a victim.

- a. Many children who have lost their life by suicide due to being a victim of sextortion have done so in less than 8 hours. Although you may have good practices and check your youth's phone there is still plenty of opportunity for your child to become victim. Even with parental controls there are instances where the online predator has found a way to bypass those controls. Please talk with your child.

12. Their kid must have not trusted them; poor child, didn't have anyone to go to when he was in danger.

- a. There are many instances when a youth may not go to their parents for help. When a child is faced with threats, fear, sleep deprivation, frontal brain lobe is not fully developed along with no idea of how to overcome a situation, they may be at risk of making the incorrect choice. Please do not victim blame parents (yourself) as this is a human response. Many teenagers do not tell their parents everything especially if there are threats against them or they feel they may disappoint their parents. The full responsibility should be on the online predators and not the victim or their parents.

Please remember if you are ever in a situation where you need someone to speak with who is unbiased or thinking about committing suicide, please STOP what you are doing and text or dial **988.**

To learn more about Tim, Tamia and James story and to also find additional resources please visit www.letsdifj.org.