

Bethany Burtlow: Sextortion Survivor

Sacramento, California

Bethany was contacted by an anonymous number who claimed they had explicit pictures of her. They told her if she did not do what they said, she would regret it. She was scared and wanted the harassment to stop, so she complied and sent more explicit images of herself. Once Bethany stopped sending images of herself, the predator sent the explicit photos of Bethany to her friends and family and posted them on X-rated websites. Bethany's parents and law enforcement helped her get justice and the suspect was a fellow classmate who is currently in jail for his crimes.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/sextortion-growing-problem-children-teens/story?id=39392560>

Jordan DeMay: Sextortion Victim

Marquette, Michigan

Jordan met a girl on Instagram and he was coerced into sending her an explicit picture of himself. He soon found out this was not in fact a girl who liked him, it was three Nigerian men who then demanded he pay them \$1,000. Jordan told them he was going to take his own life due to their blackmail and they said “good” and “enjoy your miserable life.” Jordan did end up taking his own life that day. The FBI is currently working on extraditing the three men from Nigeria to the United States. Jordan was one of hundreds of their victims.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/parents-teenager-died-by-suicide-after-sex-tortion-scam-urge/story?id=99047305>

Ashley Reynolds: Sextortion Survivor

Phoenix, Arizona

Ashley was contacted on MySpace by an online predator claiming to have explicit pictures of her. They blackmailed her into sending more explicit photos and would demand them at all times throughout the day and night. If the photos weren't acceptable to them, they would order her to retake them. Ashley was scared and felt isolated. She didn't want anyone to find out and have her reputation ruined. Eventually her parents discovered what was going on and she felt immense relief, she was finally "free." The online predator was identified and arrested in one of the largest sextortion cases with around 350 victims. He was sentenced to 105 years in prison.

Source: <https://www.fbi.gov/video-repository/newss-victim-of-sex-tortion-speaks-out/view#:~:text=I%20had%20my%20nights%20where,send%20him%20all%20these%20pictures>

Gavin Guffey: Sextortion Victim

Rock Hill, South Carolina

Gavin was seventeen and just graduated high school when he was contacted by a girl online he believed was a college student in North Carolina. She had sent him nude photos of herself and asked him to send some in return, which he did. Once he sent her those pictures, the blackmail began. He was not talking to the girl he thought he was, it was an online scammer who threatened to show the world his images unless Gavin sent them money through an online payment app. Gavin ended up taking his own life that night in his home because of it. Local and federal law enforcement are working on apprehending the scammers believed to be responsible.

Source: <https://people.com/crime/brandon-guffey-son-sex-tortion-victim-died-by-suicide/>

Waylon Scheffer: Sextortion Victim

Huson, Montana

Waylon was sixteen years old when he started having an online relationship. He was enticed to send intimate photos of himself to the person he thought cared about him but behind the screen were foreign predators. These individuals trapped him and had his nude images, saying they were sending them out one by one. Waylon started to panic and believed that the images were already being made public to his friends and family, so he deleted his phone, text messages and apps and drove out to Nine Mile, a local forest. Waylon felt like he had no other options and ended up taking his own life that day. Now his dad shares his story to hopefully help other teens not fall victim to sextortion.

Source: <https://www.kpax.com/news/western-montana-news/teen-takes-his-own-life-after-sextortion-scam-huson-dad-speaks-out>