

SEXTORTION

Over the last several months, the UCI Police Department has received several reports of sextortion involving UCI students. Sextortion is defined as a form of blackmail in which sexual information or images are used to extort specific demands, often times monetary, from the victim. In most cases, the victim is contacted by the suspect via Facebook and solicits sexual acts and naked images while chatting online with the person, posing as a social connection. The suspect then threatens to post the images on social media sites if the victim does not pay them.

If you have information that could be helpful in this investigation, please contact UCI Police Department at (949) 824-5223.

Primary Safety Tips (Social Media)

Sex offenses are increasingly being committed through the use of social media and other electronic tools. Check your privacy settings frequently, and before using social media to interact with others in a way that might seem OK (i.e., sharing private photographs of yourself), consider how someone else might exploit those same tools against you (i.e., further circulating those photographs or using them to blackmail you).

Additional Safety Tips (Social Media)

- Keep in mind that even if you set your social network page to private, it doesn't guarantee that your information is completely private.
- Don't forget that your friends may be able to see your other friends' posts and pages even if they're not friends with each other.
- Be thoughtful about who is on your friend list when you post or link to certain items.
- Read the social network's privacy policy and find out who else has access to your information, such as advertisers, third parties, etc.
- Make sure you are running anti virus and anti spyware software and make sure that definitions are updated.
- Document any content found online by taking screenshots to capture all images and information posted with it. Also record the URL of the sites. Keep a record of any other harassing or unwanted contact to you or anyone you know. Make sure to save all original emails or messages.

Resources:

- The UCI Care office provides confidential support and advocacy to students who have experienced sexual assault, relationship abuse and stalking www.care.uci.edu. (949) 824-7273

- UCI's policies and support resources for sexual violence www.sexualviolence.uci.edu.
- UCI Green Dot Bystander Intervention Program www.care.uci.edu/greendot/index.php.
- Community Service Programs, Inc. (CSP) is available to provide 24-hour crisis and referral services www.cspinc.org. (949) 831-9110

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge Cisneros", written in a cursive style.

Jorge Cisneros, Chief

UCI Crime Alerts are released by the UCI Police Department when certain crimes are reported on or near UCI property, in compliance with federal law. These Crime Alerts provide information about campus safety situations and allow campus community members to take precautions for personal safety.