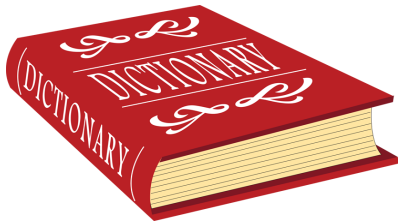


## Terms

- **Stalking**– behaving in a way that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their life or safety
- **Catfishing**- someone pretending to be someone they're not using social media to create false identities, particularly to pursue deceptive online romances or commit fraud
- **Sextortion**– tricking someone into sending sexual images or videos over social media and then using them to extort money from the victim
- **Nigerian or 419 schemes**– the victim is asked to send money as a fee or advance on a larger sum of money that they stand to receive
- **Phishing**- the attempt to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, and credit card details for malicious reasons



### **Virginia Military Institute Police Department**

301 Letcher Ave.  
Lexington, VA 24415  
540-464-7017

**In case of emergency dial 911**



**Virginia Military Institute  
Police Department**

## Social Media Safety for College Students





# Above all, use common sense!

Social media is an important part of nearly every American college student's life. Technology allows students to communicate with families and friends at home, as well as to develop new friendships, explore new interests and keep up with current events.

However, just with all good things, a potential for danger exists.



Traditional crimes such as stalking, fraud, threats have found new life in the social media revolution and a whole new world of offenses have cropped up. Words like "sextortion" and "catfishing" have now found their way into common language.

Learn how to protect yourself and what you should do if you become a victim.

## Prevention

- Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know.
- Never assume that a person is who they claim to be.
- Never give out personal information of any kind. This includes financial information.
- Use privacy settings on your accounts and be careful what you post.
- Never send money to anyone. Even if the request is made by a friend, call them to confirm in person that it is actually them you are speaking with.
- Never send any pictures or video to anyone that you wouldn't want to become public.
- Remember, the First Amendment has limits. What seems like just venting to you may sound like a threat to others.

## What To Do If You Are A Victim

- **Be Safe**– If you feel that you or someone else are in danger, call 911 immediately
- **Save Everything**– Tests, screenshots, messages, emails, call logs. Save everything. If you receive messages through Snapchat, take screenshots.
- **Make Notes**– Write down the offenders user names and account information, in case they close the account. Document dates and times of contact and what was said.
- **Do not confront the person yourself**– Often, the police can trick the person into giving away more information about themselves, but only if they don't realize that you are suspicious
- **Report It**– Criminals count on victims being too embarrassed to report most offenses, but there is very little that is going to shock us. Even if you've done something embarrassing, we are on your side. Let us help you.