

Dear parents and custodians.

We want to bring your attention to a new manifestation of sexual offences against children and adolescents, which calls for being vigilant about. There have been several cases in recent weeks where adult individuals have been paying young people of primary school age money for sexual photographs. Their access to communication with the youth is in most cases through online chat which is mainly Snapchat and Instagram, as well as Tik Tok and the app Telegram being mentioned. Children are offered between 5.000-10.000 kronas for the photograph and the amount depends on what is seen in the picture and how clear it is. Payments have been made through apps such as Aur and Kass.

It is known that adult individuals who purchase photographs of children sometimes use the pictures against them to get them to send additional and more vulgar pictures. These individuals also try sometimes to approach children further, e.g. by giving them gifts and offering to do them some kind of favours. When this happens, the respective individual is trying to form a personal relationship with the youth by creating a shared secret, thus making them indebted as a result. This is unfortunately a known method in sexual offences against children; to offer them sweets, money or other gifts to earn their trust and goodwill. It can therefore be more difficult for a child to deny the respective individual a sexual favour if the child has accepted gifts or money from such an individual. The child may experience shame due to earlier communication and it can therefore be difficult for a child to divulge what has happened. Adults are in a position of power over children and the responsibility is entirely on the adult party.

Children can experience the sale of nude pictures as a simple way to acquire a little money without realising the danger at all. It is known that pictures of some children have been stolen from the internet and sold to adults, but it is important to stop the access of these parties to children immediately.

Parents can review their children's accounts and see if strangers have been depositing into their accounts. There is also reason to be vigilant if the child seems to have money without any explanation for where it came from (some children have had it transferred to their friends) and have the talk with the child about this reality. The child needs to understand the danger without experiencing shame. It can be easy for adults to mislead children and the children are not responsible for this. Try therefore to form a safe space for your child to tell if they know about such cases or have experienced it themselves. If children tell or you have information or suspicion of a case of this nature, then it may be a violation of criminal law. The case must therefore be reported immediately to the police and child protection services at tel. 411 9200.

