

 PREDATOR NETWORKS

Inside "764": What the FBI's Largest Child-Exploitation Investigation Means for Your Family

By the DSK Research Team · October 2026

Every one of the FBI's 56 field offices is currently investigating a network that most parents have never heard of. It doesn't advertise itself — there's no single app, no headline logo, no age rating to check. It's a manipulation pattern that moves across the exact platforms your family probably already uses. This issue explains what "764" is, how it actually operates, and — most importantly — what to watch for that has nothing to do with knowing the name.

IF YOU OR A CHILD YOU KNOW IS IN CRISIS RIGHT NOW

US: call or text

988

(Suicide & Crisis Lifeline), available 24/7. Or text

HOME TO 741741

(Crisis Text Line). If a child discloses coercion involving self-harm imagery or threats, contact the FBI at

TIPS.FBI.GOV

or NCMEC's CyberTipline immediately — you will not be putting your child in trouble by reporting.

350+

individuals are under FBI investigation nationwide for ties to 764 or its affiliated networks, spanning all 56 field offices — with more than 28 people already charged by the Justice Department.

What "764" Actually Is

764 isn't a single app, website, or company — it's a loosely organized, online-only network that recruits, radicalizes, and directs members toward exploiting children. Investigators describe it less like a criminal gang with a hierarchy and more like an ideology that spreads peer-to-peer, mostly among teenage and

young-adult members themselves. That's part of what makes it hard to picture: there's no single "site to block." There's a pattern of behavior that shows up across ordinary platforms your child may already be on.

How the Pattern Actually Works

Investigators consistently describe the same escalation path. It typically starts on a mainstream platform where kids already gather to play — Roblox is the most commonly cited entry point. A member poses as a peer, finds a child through a shared game or interest, and spends time building ordinary-seeming rapport: no red flags yet, just friendly conversation about the game. Once trust is established, the conversation moves to a less-supervised platform — Discord is the most common next step — where the same manipulation tactics used in traditional grooming appear: secrecy ("don't tell your parents about this friend"), escalating requests, and eventually coercion. What sets 764 apart from typical sextortion is the endpoint: rather than purely financial extortion, members pressure victims toward self-harm, violence, or producing exploitative material, then use those results to control and further humiliate the victim.

THE ONE SENTENCE THAT MATTERS MOST

Your child does not need to know the word "764" to be protected from it. What protects them is recognizing the pattern — a new online "friend," a request for secrecy, a push to move the conversation somewhere private — regardless of what any group calls itself. Naming a threat is useful for parents tracking the news, not something to hand a child as a new fear.

Why Roblox → Discord Specifically

This isn't a coincidence of two popular platforms existing near each other. Roblox's built-in chat is moderated and heavily used by exactly the age group these networks target, making it an efficient place to find and befriend potential victims in full view of thousands of ordinary interactions. Discord, by contrast, offers private servers and DMs with much lighter default moderation and no meaningful age verification — exactly the conditions the second phase of the pattern needs. DSK's Discord Parent Guide, our existing Roblox Parent Guide, and the Roblox Journal issue (March 2026, this Journal) already cover this handoff risk; this is the specific, named network investigators say is currently exploiting it at scale.

A Documented Case

A 13-year-old boy, identified by his family as Jay, died by suicide after a 764-affiliated member overseas allegedly pushed him toward it during an extended manipulation campaign. His family has filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against Discord, one of several active suits alleging the platform's design and moderation failed to protect children from exactly this kind of escalation (see our ongoing coverage of Discord litigation for more). We share this only to be concrete about what's at stake — not to suggest this is a common or inevitable outcome, but because understanding the real severity is part of taking the warning signs seriously.

"Parents keep asking us to name the one app to take away. There isn't one. The protection that actually works is a child who knows what manipulation looks like, in any app, and trusts you enough to tell you the moment something feels off." — DSK Research Team

Warning Signs to Watch For

- A new online "friend" who started on one platform (often Roblox) and asked to move the conversation to Discord or another app
- Any request for secrecy about a friendship — "don't tell your parents," or coded language kids use to signal an adult is nearby
- Escalating requests: for photos, for personal information, for the child to do something that feels wrong "to prove trust"
- Sudden secrecy about a device, or distress when access to a specific app is limited
- Any mention, even joking, of self-harm connected to an online relationship or threat

What Parents Can Do This Week

- **Ask directly about the handoff.** "Has anyone you've met in a game ever asked you to move to Discord or another app?" is a specific, answerable question — more useful than a general "stay safe online" reminder.
- **Review Discord privacy settings together** — who can DM your child, whether their server list includes anything tied to a game you haven't reviewed.
- **Reinforce that secrecy from an online friend is always a red flag**, not evidence of a special or private relationship.
- **Report immediately, don't investigate alone.** If you suspect a child is being targeted by this pattern, contact the FBI (tips.fbi.gov) or NCMEC's CyberTipline — this is exactly the kind of case law enforcement is actively resourced to handle right now.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO

This week, ask your child one specific question: "Has a friend from a game ever asked you to keep something secret, or to talk somewhere else?" Not as an interrogation — as an open door. The pattern is what protects them, not a list of apps to fear.

Resources

- FBI tips: tips.fbi.gov
- NCMEC CyberTipline: CyberTipline.org or 1-800-843-5678
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988
- DSK Discord Parent Guide & Roblox Parent Guide: digitalsafetyknights.org/guides

- DSK Emergency Help: digitalsafetyknights.org