

DISTURBING STATISTICS

State and local law enforcement agencies involved in Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces reported a 230 percent increase in the number of documented complaints of online enticement of children from 2004 to 2008.

– National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMC)

93 percent of teens ages 12 to 17 go online.

– Pew Internet and American Life Project, 2010

Four percent of cell phone owning teens ages 12 to 17 say they have sent sexually suggestive nude/semi-nude messages to others via text message.

– Pew Internet and American Life Project, 2009

As of March 2014, 108 million child pornography images have been reviewed and analyzed by NCMC's Child Victim Identification Program since 2002.

– NCMC



TAKING ACTION

As a parent, learn as much as you can about the Internet (i.e. chat rooms, social networking sites, websites and news groups), especially from your children. Ask them to show you the places they visit online. This is a great way to keep the lines of communication open.

The Office of Attorney General has several Internet safety programs and presentations. These programs include informative videos created for adults and children to help them better understand the importance of Internet safety. Videos cover topics of online predators, cyber bullying, and safety settings for parents.

For more information
or to schedule a speaker to
visit your school or community
organization contact the
Education and Outreach Unit at
1-800-525-7642 or
education@attorneygeneral.gov



www.attorneygeneral.gov

CHILD PREDATOR SECTION

The Pennsylvania Attorney General's Child Predator Section (CPS) is empowered to investigate any case in which a minor is the victim of a sexual solicitation from an adult via the Internet. CPS also investigates the online sharing, downloading, and distribution of child pornography. Through aggressive enforcement of current laws, proactive operations targeting child sexual predators, and continual monitoring of the Internet for child pornography, we will not allow innocence to be stolen from our children. CPS also provides assistance to law enforcement agencies throughout the Commonwealth and the United States.

Report:

If your child has been solicited online:
DO NOT continue the chat and
IMMEDIATELY contact your local police
or the **Child Predator Section** at

1-800-385-1044 or
cpu@attorneygeneral.gov



Send an anonymous tip
to our office. You can do
it directly from your cell
phone or from our website.
www.attorneygeneral.gov

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CYBER SAFETY

PROTECTING OUR
CHILDREN ONLINE

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PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN ONLINE



The Internet is a wonderful tool and has opened up a world of information for anyone with access to a computer. Children are taught at an early age how to operate a computer and routinely use the Internet for homework, playing games, and communicating with others. But, just as you would not send children near a busy street without some safety rules, you should not send them onto the “Information Superhighway” without some rules of the road.

Online predators are targeting our children at an alarming rate, so it is critical for us to help them learn how to protect themselves while still enjoying all of the benefits of the Internet. The following information provides you with important online safety tips and ways in which to reduce online risks for kids. Working together, we can make a difference.

COMMUNICATION: THE FIRST STEP

Children begin using electronic devices at a very young age. Their technological knowledge and skills are extensive, which makes it important to set clear rules and expectations for online activity. Remember, once something goes viral it is always accessible.

Talk to your children about the potential dangers of the Internet such as *exposure to inappropriate material, sexual solicitation, harassment, and bullying.*

Dosomething.org states that only 1 in 10 victims will inform a parent or trusted adult if they are being abused physically or online. Encourage your children to confide in you if anything has made them feel uncomfortable.

CONTROLLING ACCESS

- Set limits on your child’s device of who can view their posts, profiles, and communications.
- Install filtering, tracking, and blocking software to monitor what your child is doing online.
- Adjust the parental controls offered by your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to limit your child’s access to inappropriate material.
- Check computer and mobile device Internet history to see what sites your child visits.
- Regularly monitor your child when they are online and set time limits.
- Monitor any social media apps your child has installed on their devices.
- Turn off electronic devices at bedtime and store them outside of the bedroom.

ONLINE SAFETY: PREPARE A PLAN

- Establish age-appropriate rules for Internet use, ensure everyone understands them.
- **KNOW YOUR CHILD’S PASSWORDS**
- Advise your child to **NEVER:**
 - **Agree to meet face to face with someone they’ve met online.**
 - **Provide their name, phone number, address, school name, parent’s name, or any other personal information.**
 - **Transmit a compromising picture of themselves or others.**
 - **Engage in cyber bullying by forwarding mean or inappropriate comments or photos.**
- Teach your child age-appropriate use of online profiles on social networking sites and blogging, as the person at the other end is not always who they claim to be.

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS

(source: Federal Bureau of Investigation)

Your child might be at risk if he or she:

- Spends large amounts of time online, especially late at night.
- Turns off the computer quickly when you come into the room or becomes upset when you ask to see what they are doing online.
- Receives phone calls from adults you don’t know or is making long distance calls.
- Receives mail or gifts from people you don’t know.
- Uses an online account belonging to someone else.



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