

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 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

DISTURBING STATISTICS

100,000 Web sites offering child pornography
(U.S. Customs Service and TopTenREVIEWS, 2004)

79% of teens state that they aren't careful enough when giving out information about themselves online
(Pew Internet and American Life, "Protecting Teens Online," 2005)

64% of teens say that they do things online that they wouldn't want their parents to know about
(Pew Internet and American Life, "Protecting Teens Online," 2005)

\$3 billion Child pornography revenue annually
(TopTenREVIEWS, 2004)

1 in 5 Children are sexually solicited online (only 25% of those told a parent)
(Online Victimization, David Finkelhor, 2000)

89% Sexual solicitations occurred in either chat rooms or Instant Messaging
(Online Victimization, David Finkelhor, 2000)

TAKING ACTION

As a parent, learn as much as you can about the Internet (i.e. chatrooms, social networking sites, Web sites 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. You also can visit the parent resource area on the Attorney General's Web site at www.attorneygeneral.gov to learn more about Internet safety and access resources to help you keep your kids safe online.

Through the Attorney General's Internet safety program **Operation SAFE SURF**, an informative DVD was created for adults to help them better understand the importance of Internet safety. The DVD features victim stories and gives a portrait of an online predator. It also presents information on how and why kids should protect themselves online. Visit the Web site to order your free copy. There are also resources for kids.

Report:

If your child has been solicited online:

- **DO NOT** continue the chat
- **IMMEDIATELY** contact your local police or the OAG Child Predator Unit at **1-800-385-1044** or **cpu@attorneygeneral.gov**



CHILD PREDATOR UNIT

The Attorney General created the Child Predator Unit to combat child predators and investigate complaints involving the sexual exploitation of children. The Unit will continue to lead the battle against child sexual predators and 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 the innocence to be stolen from our children. The Unit also provides assistance to law enforcement agencies throughout the Commonwealth and the United States.

For more information, contact the Education and Outreach Office at **1-800-525-7642** or **education@attorneygeneral.gov**

To learn more about the Child Predator Unit and Operation **SAFE SURF**, visit the Attorney General's web site **www.attorneygeneral.gov**

P E N N S Y L V A N I A
ATTORNEY GENERAL

CYBERSAFETY:

**PROTECTING YOUR KIDS
AND TEENS 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.



**Remind
your child...
everyone
online is a
stranger!**

CYBERSAFETY: PROTECTING YOUR KIDS AND TEENS ONLINE

COMMUNICATION: THE FIRST STEP

While children physically may be alone in a room using the computer, once someone is logged onto the Internet, he or she is no longer alone. Talk to your child about the potential dangers of the Internet such as *exposure to inappropriate material, sexual solicitation, harassment and bullying*. Encourage your children to confide in you if anything has made them feel uncomfortable. Often children and teens are afraid to tell a parent for fear that their Internet use will be taken away. The best way to get your child to discuss a potential problem with you is to be proactive and talk about online dangers before a problem arises.



CONTROLLING ACCESS

- Keep your computer in a common area accessible to everyone in the home (i.e. den, family room, kitchen)
- Regularly monitor your children when they're online and set time limits
- Install filtering, tracking and blocking software to monitor what your children are doing online
- Adjust the parental controls offered by your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to limit your child's access to inappropriate material
- Check your computer's Internet history to see what sites your child visits

**More importantly... “BE A PARENT”...
don't rely on software to be your babysitter...
talk and listen to your child!**

ONLINE SAFETY: PREPARE A PLAN

- Establish rules for Internet use and post them near the computer
- Help your child choose his or her screen name (avoid using any suggestive or vital information that could be used to exploit your child)
- 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 picture of themselves or others (current technology allows for computer morphing where photographs can be imposed onto other photographs)
- Teach your child about the dangers of online profiles on social networking sites and blogging as child sexual predators use these on the Internet to target potential victims