

# Internet Safety



Cyberspace has revolutionized business transactions and interpersonal communications. However, cyberspace has increased our vulnerability to being victimized. The internet makes it easier for the fraudster or sexual predator to lure you, or your children, into their web of crime. Cyber awareness is necessary to keep yourself, your identity, your loved ones and your personal property safe. Navigating the internet safely requires a little intuition, strict adherence to a few guidelines and common sense.

## COMMON SENSE TIPS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Never give out personal information, to include name, address, phone number, birthday, social security number, school, work, clubs, activities, etc. that may identify where you live, work or play</li> <li>◇ Never agree to meet anyone in person that you met online</li> <li>◇ Never send or post pictures without thinking of the “consequences”</li> <li>◇ Never respond to unsolicited messages, legitimate businesses do not solicit in this manner</li> <li>◇ Never access “fee to enter” sites</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Install and utilize software security, to include antivirus software, firewalls, content blockers, etc.</li> <li>◇ Install and utilize software that monitors computer activity</li> <li>◇ Place the computer in a common room</li> <li>◇ Spend time with children on the internet</li> <li>◇ Talk with children about the reality of society, violence, predators, pornography, scammers, etc</li> <li>◇ Verify legitimacy through phone calls</li> <li>◇ Establish and adhere to strict computer usage rules/guidelines</li> </ul> |
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## WARNING SIGNS

- ◇ Withdrawal or lack of interest
- ◇ Change in academics
- ◇ Strange phone calls or gifts
- ◇ Pornography, especially of children
- ◇ Fear of school or the outdoors
- ◇ Turning off the monitor when someone enters the room
- ◇ Loss of sleep & low self-esteem
- ◇ Change in appetite or stomach pain



## ACTION STEPS

- ◇ Create user names & passwords for your children
- ◇ Delete old accounts and create new ones
- ◇ Use parental controls & monitoring software
- ◇ Disconnect from Cyberspace
- ◇ Only “friend” known people
- ◇ Keep records for evidence
- ◇ Contact law enforcement & school
- ◇ Offer unconditional love & support
- ◇ Talk with your children



## TIPS & RESOURCES

Call 911 or your local law enforcement	<a href="http://www.netsmartz.org">www.netsmartz.org</a> , <a href="http://www.isafe.org">www.isafe.org</a>
Federal Bureau of Investigations: <a href="http://www.fbi.gov">www.fbi.gov</a>	<a href="http://www.missingkids.org">www.missingkids.org</a>
<a href="http://www.transl8it.com">www.transl8it.com</a> , <a href="http://www.webopedia.com">www.webopedia.com</a>	<a href="http://www.nap.edu/netsafekids">www.nap.edu/netsafekids</a>

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