

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 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)

CHILD PREDATOR UNIT

The Attorney General created the Child Predator Unit, formerly called the Child Exploitation Task Force, to combat child predators and investigate complaints involving the sexual exploitation of children. The Child Predator 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.

TAKING ACTION

Learn:

As a parent, try to learn as much as you can about the workings of the Internet (i.e. chat rooms, Internet Relay Chat rooms, websites, and newsgroups) 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 can also attend information classes usually held at local community colleges, YMCA's or YWCA's.

Share:

Share your knowledge of Internet safety with fellow parents and adults. Contact the Attorney General's Child Predator Unit to set up a Cybersafety session with your community group, organization, or school.

Report:

If your child has been solicited online:

- **DO NOT** continue the chat
- **IMMEDIATELY** contact your local police or the National CyberTipline at **1-800-843-5678**



You may contact the Child Predator Unit by email at **cpu@attorneygeneral.gov** or by calling **(800) 385-1044**

To learn more about the Child Predator Unit and their continued efforts to keep our children safe, visit the Attorney General's website **www.attorneygeneral.gov**

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

CYBERSAFETY:

**PROTECTING YOUR KIDS
AND TEENS ONLINE**



Dear Pennsylvanians:

The Internet is a wonderful tool and has opened up a world of information for anyone with access to a computer. Today's 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 wouldn't send children near a busy street without some safety rules, you shouldn't send them on the "Information Superhighway" without rules of the road. Too many dangers - from pedophiles to con artists - can reach children through the Internet. The following information was designed to help you learn the important safety tips necessary to reduce online risks for children. Working together, we can protect our children from the terrible threat of online predators.

Tom Corbett
TOM CORBETT
Attorney General



Remind your child, everyone online is a stranger!

CYBERSAFETY: PROTECTING YOUR KIDS AND TEENS ONLINE

COMMUNICATION: THE FIRST STEP

Explain to children that although they 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, or harassment and bullying*. Parents should encourage their children to confide in them 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 the 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 software to monitor for malicious code, spy ware, viruses, or pornography
- Adjust the parental controls offered by your Internet Service Provider (ISP) such as MSN or AOL to limit your child's access to inappropriate material
- Learn how to check the Internet history files which keeps track of the web sites visited each day

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 which 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 and "blogging" as child sexual predators scour these on the Internet to target potential victims