

How to Report

If you believe you have been inappropriately solicited online or find yourself in a situation that makes you uncomfortable, you should report it! There are different ways you can do this:

- Tell your parent or parents
- Tell a trusted adult. This could be a friend, a teacher, a scout leader, a leader in your community, a coach, a member of law enforcement or a religious leader
- Tell one of the Advocates or volunteers giving the Attorney General's Cyber Safety presentation at your school
- Report the incident at the Attorney General's anonymous tip line found at www.SafeFlorida.net/SafeSurf or www.cybertipline.com
- Call 1.800.the.lost

How to Tell if One of Your Friends is in Cyber Danger

Is one of your friends acting differently lately? Do you suspect something is wrong? It could be that someone they have met online is "grooming" them and they don't realize what is happening. Here are some of the things you should look out for:

- Does your friend spend an unusual amount of time online chatting?
- Has your friend stopped hanging out with you after school and on weekends?
- Does your friend get anxious or upset if he or she is not able to get to a computer to chat or check e-mail?
- Have you noticed a change in your friend's personality?
- Is your friend isolating him or herself from their friends and family?
- Does your friend have a sudden influx of cash?
- Is your friend getting gifts through the mail?
- Is your friend exhausted because of being online all night?
- Does your friend use a pre-paid phone card to make calls to that "special someone"?
- Is your friend too attached to the cell phone or afraid to miss a call?
- Ask the same questions of yourself. Are you getting groomed?

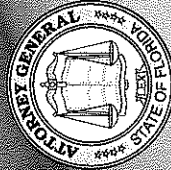
Contact Us

Office of the Attorney General's Cyber Safety Education Program
Division of Victim Services and Criminal Justice Programs

PL-01 The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399
800.226.6667 or 850.414.3300

Safe Surfing

Tips to keep you and your friends safe online



Attorney General
Pam Bondi





Social Networking Sites

Do you have a Facebook page? Social networking sites are fun and creative ways to communicate with friends, share ideas and express yourself. However, it's important to keep in mind that anything you post, including personal information and pictures, could remain on the internet forever for anyone to see.

Do you want everyone to know your information? Where you live? Work? Go to school? Hang out? What if it wasn't a kid looking at your site but a predator pretending to be a kid? Because you cannot see or hear the people you are talking to online, it's easy for people to disguise themselves.

Many people think only their friends can see their information, but on social networking sites your "friends" are often people you've never really met. How many friends do you have on your site? More importantly, how many of your "friends" on your social networking site do you know in real life? Remember, colleges, universities and employers often search social networking sites to find out about their prospective candidates. Does your information reflect the real you?

When posting information, think before you post!

Online Lures/Grooming

When communicating with someone you don't know in real life, you should be cautious of some common tactics used by online predators to win your trust and create a false sense of security. The following are examples of what is called "grooming." Does the person you're chatting with:

- Make you feel "special"?
- Give you excessive compliments?
- Make promises of gifts and/or money?
- Make you believe that they understand you like no one else does?
- Say you are the only one for them – that no one else matters?
- Offer you "real love" or say you are their "soul mate?"
- Seem to have everything in common with you?
- Make you feel bad if you're not available to chat?

When someone you don't know in real life uses any of these methods to tempt you to do something inappropriate, you are being "groomed." By creating a false sense of trust, the predator breaks down your suspicions and defenses. If someone says he is 13 or even 17 years old, how do you know he isn't really 45 or 50 and just pretending to be a teen?

www.safeflorida.net/safesurf

The Florida Attorney General has developed a website just for you:

www.safeflorida.net/safesurf

This site provides valuable information about staying safe while surfing the Internet. The teen SafeSurf page offers tips about safeguarding personal information and avoiding dangerous situations.



Home Offender Search The Law FAQs Additional Resources

Cyber Safety

Public Schools



Learn about the risks of and tactics used by online predators as well as what constitutes a cyber crime and how to report it

Parenting Tips



Learn how to identify potential threats that could endanger your child as well as important tips and safety measures

Teen Safety



Information about protecting yourself while surfing the internet, safeguarding personal information and avoiding potentially dangerous situations

Kids Zone



Learn how to protect yourself online while playing games, surfing the internet and having fun

Contact Us

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The Capitol, PL-01
Tallahassee, FL 32399
phone: (850) 414-3300
website: www.myfloridalegal.com
online: [Contact Form](#)
news: [Weekly Newsletter](#)

Find us at:



Frequently Asked Questions

- [Is it safe for my child to have a social networking profile such as Facebook?](#)
- [How do I keep my child safe online and what are some safety tips to help me protect my child?](#)
- [Are all websites dangerous?](#)
- [Can I get into trouble if I take a nude picture of myself with my cell phone and send it to someone else?](#)
- [If I have a nude picture of my girlfriend that she sent to me on my phone and I do not show anyone or send it out, can I get in trouble?](#)
- [If I have a nude picture of someone that is over the age of 18 can I get in trouble?](#)
- [Can I report Cyberbullying to the tip lines as well?](#)

Is it safe for my child to have a social networking profile such as Facebook?

If you take steps to protect the way your child uses these sites, safety can be vastly improved. Some steps to consider would be: look for the information provided on the site for parental safety tools; make sure you know how to use the privacy settings; and create guidelines for your child limiting the friends they can have to those they know in person and who you have approved.

Talk to your children and make sure they know how to report inappropriate content or contact from strangers online.

How do I keep my child safe online and what are some safety tips to help me protect my child?

As a parent or guardian, keeping your child's trust, communicating with them, and educating them on the use of the Internet are more effective choices.

Here are some tips to protect your child online:

- Look for the information provided on this site for parental safety tools.
- Remind your child that people online may not be who they say they are. Someone indicating that "she" is a "12-year old girl" could be a 40-year old male sexual predator.
- Use the filtering features built into the popular Internet browsers and software programs that block areas known to be inappropriate for children.
- Learn how to check the Internet history files, which keeps track of the web sites visited each day.
- Inquire about your Internet Service Provider's (ISP's) privacy policies and exercise your options for how your personal information may be used.
- Know the lingo used by children online.
- Establish rules for safe Internet use and monitor the amount of time your child spends on the computer.
- Keep the computer in a common area in the house rather than the child's bedroom.
- Make sure your child never provides personal information such as a home address, school name, telephone number, age, or any other personal information which would make it easy for a stranger to find your child.
- Tell your child not to post suggestive pictures or images that might give strangers clues about his or her identity or location. These pictures may also affect how relatives, potential employers and even college admissions counselors perceive your child.
- If you or your child becomes aware of the transmission, use or viewing of child pornography while online, immediately report this to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline® at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.
- Most importantly, remember to talk to your child, know how they are spending time online and listen to what they are telling you.

Are all websites dangerous?

No. Specific websites can be dangerous depending on how they are used and what you do on that site to place yourself at risk. If the site has the capacity for any

CyberSafety Presentations

2012/2013 School Year:
40,196* students reached
2,046* reported victimization
*Stats as of 3/19/2013

2011/2012 School Year:
59,546* students reached
2,967* reported victimization
*Stats as of 3/19/2013

2010/2011 School Year:
114,080* students reached
5,882* reported victimization
*Stats as of 3/19/2013



Make A Report

Please report information to help in the fight against child sexual exploitation.



type of instant message "chatting," basically anyone can start up a conversation with another person. Knowing how to avoid and/or respond to those overtures will make the difference in how to ensure safety.

Can I get into trouble if I take a nude picture of myself with my cell phone and send it to someone else?

Most likely, yes. Currently referred to as "sexting", the possession and distribution of images that are pornographic is a crime which can be punished by up to 15 years in prison. If the image you create is nudity that is not legally considered pornography, but you send it to a child under 18, that is another crime of "transmission of harmful materials to a child" which can be punished with up to five years in prison. These crimes carry with them the requirement to register online as a sexual offender. Never take images of yourself that you would not want everyone—your classmates, your teachers, your family, or your employers—to see.

If I have a nude picture of my girlfriend that she sent to me on my phone and I do not show anyone or send it out, can I get in trouble?

Yes. If the person is under the age of 18 and the picture is on your phone, computer or any other electronic device, it is a crime.

If I have a nude picture of someone that is over the age of 18 can I get in trouble?

No. It is not illegal to possess a nude picture of someone who is over the age of 18. However, if the image you send contains nudity and you send it to a minor, you are "transmitting harmful materials to a minor," a third-degree felony under Florida Statutes Ch. 847.0138, punishable by up to five years in prison.

Can I report Cyberbullying to the tip lines as well?

Yes, immediately report this to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline® at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>. Cyberbullying should also be reported to your local law enforcement.

Teens

Have you been solicited online?

If you believe you have been inappropriately solicited online or find yourself in a situation that makes you uncomfortable, you should report it! There are different ways you can do this:

- Tell your parent or parents.
- Tell a trusted adult. This could be a friend, a teacher, a leader in your community, a coach, a member of law enforcement or a religious leader.
- Tell one of the Advocates or volunteers giving the Attorney General's CyberSafety presentation at your school.
- To report an incident visit the [CyberTipLine](#) website or Call 1-800-THE-LOST.

Is Your Friend in Cyber Danger?

Has he or she been acting differently lately? Do you suspect something is wrong? It could be that someone they have met online is "grooming" them and they don't realize what is happening. Here are some of the things you should look out for:

- Does your friend spend an unusual amount of time online chatting?
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Safe Surfing Tips

Check out our [Safe Surfing brochure](#) for more tips on how to keep you and your friends safe online.

Watch teens share their own "Real-Life Stories" about issues affecting them on the Internet such as cyberbullying, online enticement, and giving out too much personal information.

[NetSmartz Teens](#)
