



Cybersafety

The internet has opened up a new world that allows our children to reach out to new sources of knowledge and experiences. Unfortunately, these advances are also leaving them vulnerable to too many dangers. As adults, we must take proactive measures to protect our children and ourselves from these dangers.

Internet survival tips for kids and teens:

- **Never give out any personal information over the computer.** Information such as your name, home address, school name, or telephone number are off limits.
- **Tell your parents right away if you see or read something on the internet that makes you feel uncomfortable.**
- **Never share your password with anyone but your parents.**
- **Never meet up with anyone you don't already know.** Don't tell anyone your schedule; don't say where you'll be hanging out. No party announcements. People are often not who they say they are.
- **Be careful about posting pictures of yourself (if you must, don't post sexy ones or ones showing behavior you wouldn't want your mom, teacher, boss, or potential college advisor to see)** Pictures with identifiers like where you go to school can be shopping lists for online predators and other creeps.

If you become a victim of the internet:

- **Tell your parents right away!**
- **Contact your local Internet Provider and log your complaint.**
- **File a report with your local police Department .**
- **Contact the National CyberTip Line 1-800-843-5678 or contact them at: www.cybertipline.com**
- **Talk it out.** Just as adults need to help kids stay safe, they also need to learn not to overreact when they find out a child or teenager has been exposed to inappropriate material or strayed from a rule. Whatever you do, don't blame or punish your child if he tells you about an uncomfortable online encounter. Your best strategy is to work with him, so you both can learn from what happened and figure out how to keep it from happening again.

Remember that as frustrating as your parents are on this subject, they're only trying to keep you safe.



This project was supported by Grant Number 2009-JAG ARRA-KCPC-00585 awarded through the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet by the U.S. Office of Justice Programs