

Surfing the Net



You and your children will use computers on a daily basis. But just as you would not surf the waves in the ocean without lessons and safety equipment, neither should you or your children surf the "Net" without such guidance.

Internet Fraud: Often consists of scams that con-artists have been using for years only now they have a new medium and many more victims to exploit at one time. To avoid internet fraud shop online with companies you know. If you don't know a company, ask for a print catalog before you decide to order electronically. Use a secure browser that will encrypt or scramble purchase information. If you don't have encryption software, look for software that can be downloaded from the Internet for free. Consider calling the company's 800 number, faxing your order, or paying by check. Never give anyone your bank account number, social security number, or other personal information that isn't absolutely needed to complete a transaction. Never give out your internet password. Your online provider will not ask for your password other than at first log-in. Change your password often and be creative!

Top scams on the Internet: Investment schemes, Identity theft and fraud, Auction and retail schemes, Credit Card fraud, Work at home schemes, Pyramid businesses that promote high return but never deliver, or companies that request a start up fee.

The best way to avoid schemes is by researching companies before you invest or make purchases as well as protecting personal information.



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Cape May County Prosecutor's Office

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Be reasonable. Try to set reasonable expectations for computer and Internet use and talk with your children about proper use of the service
- Support critical thinking and civil behavior offline and online
- Require Internet use in a high-traffic area of your home, such as the living or family room
- Get your kids to share their profiles and blogs with you. Remember, children may have more than one account, which can include MySpace and Facebook as well as a primary email account
- Warn children that whatever they post online is online forever. This includes blogs, pictures and personal information
- Teach children about exploitation, pornography, hate literature, excessive violence and other issues that concern you, so they no how to respond when they see this material
- Warn children about the dangers of posting or texting sexually explicit pictures of themselves and/or others, which is called "SEXTING." Explain that it is never ok to send this kinds of pictures even if it is to a boyfriend or a girlfriend
- If children will not listen directly to you about the dangers of cyberspace...email or text them. LOL (laughing out loud)!

CAPE MAY COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

ROBERT L. TAYLOR
COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Cyber Safety Guide



<http://www.cmcpros.net>

CAPE MAY COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

The Internet and technology has become an important part of our daily lives. Computers, cell phones, email, text messaging and instant chat keep us in constant communication. It is a wonderful and useful tool, however it is not without its dangers. The following information will help protect you and your children from online predators and con-artists. The Cape May County Prosecutor's Office is available to present free Cyber-Safety and Cyber-Bullying presentations to parents, students, educators, and the general public. For more information please contact:

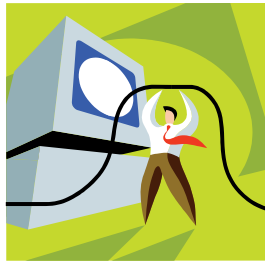
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If a child becomes uneasy or defensive when you walk into the room or when you linger, this may be a sign that he or she is engaged in bad computer etiquette such as visiting inappropriate websites or engaging in inappropriate conversations in chat rooms. Talk to your child about safe and healthy computer, gaming, Internet, and phone use.

Cyber Safety

Prevention Tips for Parents & Children

- Be careful about giving your personal information. Never give friends your passwords
- Supervise your child's use of the computer and monitor text messages sent and received on cell phones



- Learn about the sites your child visits and restrict access to other sites with violent and/or explicit content
- Encourage children to speak to a trusted adult if something seems wrong

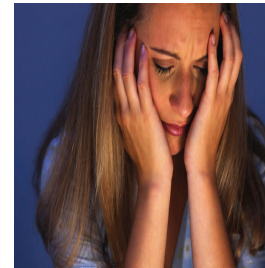
- Walk away from computer if harassment starts
- Do not erase messages or pictures. Save these as potential evidence
- Be aware that what happens online can be reproduced and spread very easily. Nothing online is ever private

Cyber Bullying

Regarded as the newest form of bullying, Cyber-bullying consists of bullying both online and offline. "This would include incidents perpetrated by peers that occur entirely online, but arise from school related events or relationships and have school-related consequences for targets." Conduits for Cyber-bullying include email, cell phone and pager text messaging, instant messaging, defamatory personal polling websites that harass, humiliate, intimidate and/or threaten other students. Cyber-bullying is longer lasting than traditional bullying as a target is not required to be in the physical presence of a bully.

"Sexting"

Is the act of posting sexually explicit images of oneself or others on social networking sites or text messaging these images by way of phone or similar devices. While laws are catching up to this phenomenon, the social ramifications are both expedient and costly. These pictures



Approx. 20% of American Teenagers participate in "Sexting."
National Campaign to Support Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

can be reproduced and circulated much to the detriment of an individual and his or her family. It is best to sit down with your child to discuss and explain the consequences of his or her actions including the legal action that could occur. Become familiar with the Terms of agreement on social networking sites as well as with the laws in your state.

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Control Access

Choose an on-line service offering parental control features that block inappropriate content or access to the Internet entirely.

Purchase blocking software and design your own safety system to block sites by name and content as well as prevent children from giving out personal information.

Monitor children when they are online and monitor the time they spend online. You can also install software programs connected to your email address that will monitor text messages received and sent by your child.