

Internet Safety: Action for Parents

Hold politicians accountable to create a less exploitive and sexually charged culture for children. Insist they vote for parents rights over corporations.

- Expand the Child On-Line Protection Act (COPA) to include children up to 18 years old.
- Outlaw all advertising that targets kids below age 12.
- Eliminate tax deductions for all advertising that reaches kids below age 18.

Require Internet Companies to be responsible and accountable to parents.

- Mandate commercial internet sites verify users ages.
- Prohibit commercial data collection on minors.
- Create barriers preventing interaction between adults and minors on commercial web sites. Fine or allow civil law suits for damages when circumvent these barriers.

Parents & Teachers Need to Teach Children:

- Every electronic interaction is *public*. Kids need to learn the meaning and consequences of information revealed on the internet. Parents, predators, future employers, and the government can see everything posted.
- Internet marketing is designed to collect, sell, and exploit personal information.
- Recognize, refuse, & report unwanted solicitations and predatory behavior.

In Your Home:

- Keep electronic media out of the bedrooms. Put it in a public family place so parents can be aware of the amount of time spent and what kinds of activities your children participate in on the internet.
- Avoid personal electronic media (such as cell phones and IM accounts) until age 13.

Report solicitations to: www.missingkids.com using the *CyberTipline* link.

Treat your child's 'virtual social networks' the same as you would their face-to-face friends. Make sure you're comfortable with the types of interactions they have, and the ages of the people they're interacting with. Internet companies and software developers have shown they aren't capable of looking after your kids. In fact, most would rather exploit them. You're the parent. Don't snoop, but do be watchful. – Peter DeBenedittis, Ph.D.

