How Safe Are Your Children When They're Online?

Many parents believe that if their children are using the Internet at home they're protected. But an Internet connection is all a predator needs to invade your home and threaten your child's safety. According to a report by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:

- 1 in 5 children who regularly use the Internet are sexually solicited.
- 1 in 17 are harassed or threatened.
- 1 in 33 receive an aggressive sexual solicitation or are asked to meet.
- 70% of aggressive online solicitations occur in the child's home.
- Less than 10% of those children who are sexually solicited report it to authorities.

What's Being Done?

Catching those who use the Internet to prey on children and bringing them to justice is one of the most important functions of my office. In addition to prosecutions, the Nebraska Department of Justice:

- Works with the State's Educational Service Units (ESUs) to educate our kids about the dangers that lurk online. I have traveled the state talking to students about how they can protect themselves. Additionally, we established April as Internet Safety Month in Nebraska to further increase awareness.
- Works closely with the State Patrol's *Internet Crimes Against Children Unit* to capture and convict Internet predators. Unfortunately, there is no limit to the number of predators that lurk online. It takes only a moment for an investigator posing as a young girl to be sexually solicited.
- Successfully passed LB 943 in 2004. This law not only closed several legal loopholes related to the "entrapment" defense used by Internet predators, it also increased the punishments for those who were caught enticing a child under the age of 17 online.
- Created the safekids.ne.gov Web site where parents, kids and teachers can go to learn more about Internet safety.

Internet Tips For Parents

How can you keep your kids safe? Below are some tips to consider when it comes to your children's Internet use:

- Explore the Internet with your children and help them find kid-friendly sites.
- Tell your kids they should avoid giving out personal information like name, address and phone number in a chat room, to online pen pals or on electronic bulletin boards.
- Use an online filter. Most Internet providers offer a filter to their customers. If they don't, consider purchasing software that can filter online activity when you're not around.
- Set online rules and make sure your children understand and follow the rules.
- Teach your children the meaning of private and personal information, that includes information about your family and where they attend school.

Learn more by visiting **www.safekids.ne.gov**.

Internet Suggestions For Young Adults

The Internet provides new freedoms to young adults, but with freedom comes responsibility. Learn how to protect your family and yourself from online dangers:

- NEVER agree to meet an online acquaintance without talking to your parents.
- Never assume someone is who they say they are.
- Never give out your phone number, address or photo to an online pen pal or someone you met in a chat room unless you talk to your parents first.
- Always follow these guidelines whether you're using the Internet at home, school, the library or a friend's house.
- If someone online makes you feel uncomfortable, tell your parents.

Sometimes it is difficult to tell your friends "no" when they want to visit a questionable site, or to refuse an online pen pal who wants a photo and your home address. But the word "no" is the best tool you have to keep you and your family safe. **To learn more about what you can do to keep yourself safe on the Internet, visit www.safekids.ne.gov.**

Dear Fellow Nebraskans,

The Internet has become a tool that changes the way we do business and communicate with one another. Unfortunately, it has also become a tool for predators and pedophiles.

Nebraska's young people must learn to respect the dangers of the Internet, and it's our responsibility as parents and educators to help them understand those dangers. This brochure and our website, www.safekids.ne.gov, are designed to act as a guide for discussions between parents, teachers and children. They are also meant to challenge young adults to think before they log on and to give them additional resources to be safe on the Internet.

No one is immune to the potential dangers that lurk online, especially children. Working together, we can educate our young people on how to safely access all the Internet has to offer.

Sincerely,

Jon Bruning

Jon Bruning
Attorney General, State of Nebraska

Do you know what your kids are saying online?

Internet predators do. Below is a partial list of acronyms that are used by young people today. Some will surprise you!

121	One-to-one
A/S/L	Age, sex, location
DIKU	Do I know you?
IPN	I'm posting naked
LMIRL	Let's meet in real life
NIFOC	Naked in front of computer
NP	Nosy parents
OLL	On-line love
P911	My parents are coming!
PA	Parent alert
PAL	Parents are listening
PANB	Parents are nearby
PM	Private Message
POS	Parent over shoulder
SAW	Siblings are watching
TAW	Teachers are watching
W/E	Whatever
WIBNI	Wouldn't it be nice if?
WTGP	Want to go private?
TOS	Teacher over shoulder
WFM	Works for me
WUF	Where are you from?
YBS	You'll be sorry

SOURCE: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

For a list of nearly 200 online acronyms, visit **www.ago.state.ne.us** or **www.safekids.ne.gov.**

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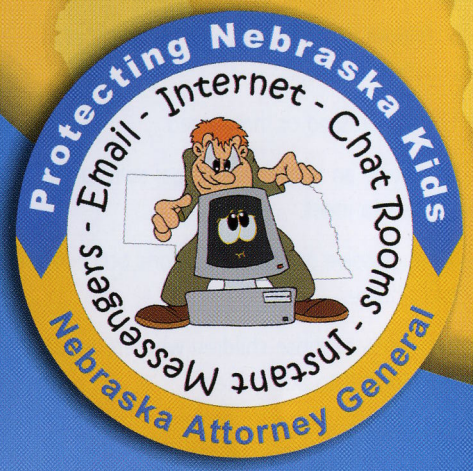
SafeKids.ne.gov



Internet Safety Information for the Whole Family

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ATTORNEY GENERAL JON BRUNING