



SEVEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN FROM INTERNET PREDATORS AND CYPERBULLIES

During COVID-19, the Internet has been an essential tool for educators and families. Digital technology is helping students continue their studies and stay connected. At the same time, increased on-line presence, if unmonitored, may expose children to potentially adverse effects, including predatory individuals and cyberbullying. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are encouraged to take the following measures to help increase children's on-line safety:

1. **SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN'S USE OF THE INTERNET**, spot check profiles and posts. Keep electronic devices in open, common areas of the home and consider setting time limits for their use.
2. **REVIEW GAMES, APPS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA SITES**, prior to downloading or used by children. Pay particular attention to apps and sites that feature end-to-end encryption, direct messaging, video chats, file uploads, and user anonymity, which are frequently relied upon by on-line child predators.
3. **ADJUST PRIVACY SETTINGS AND USE PARENTAL CONTROLS** for on-line games, apps, social medial sites, and electronic devices.
4. **AVOID SHARING PERSONAL INFORMATION, PHOTOS, AND VIDEOS ONLINE** in public forums or with people they do not know in real life. Images posted on-line will be permanently on the Internet.
5. **NOTICE THE SIGNS OF ABUSE**, including changes in children's use of electronic devices, attempts to conceal on-line activity, withdrawn behavior, angry outbursts, anxiety, and depression.
6. **ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO TELL A PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR OTHER TRUSTED ADULT** if anyone asks them to engage in inappropriate behavior.
7. **IMMEDIATELY REPORT SUSPECTED ONLINE ENTICEMENT OR EXPLOITATION OF A CHILD** by alerting local law enforcement, contacting the FBI at tips.fbi.gov, or filing a report with the national Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) at 1-800-843-5678 or <https://report.cybertip.org/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, HELPFUL TOOLS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, PLEASE VISIT: the Justice Department's website at: <https://www.justice.gov/psc>. Or the FBI's Safe Online Surfing at <https://sos.fbi.gov/en/>.

Project Safe Childhood is a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006, **by the** Department of Justice. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS).