

Keeping Children & Adults Safe on the Internet

The Internet has revolutionized the way we function and communicate in our day-to-day lives, exposing us all to an unimagined volume of ideas and possibilities. We are only beginning to understand the full impact that such expanded access to images and information is having on children and adults.

Access to the online world via computers and other communication devices and networks offers an experience of anonymity which increases the chance that both children and adults will take risks and experiment with behavior they might never attempt in “real life.” We must acknowledge our responsibility to educate ourselves and our children about safely using this rapidly changing technology. By taking protective actions in advance and speaking up about questionable behavior, we can help prevent harmful use of the Internet.

Prevention Resources for Families

Learn more about protecting those you care about and responding effectively to concerning online activity

[National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)

This national child abuse prevention organization hosts a comprehensive list of resources and publications that equip parents and guardians to take informed protective steps against child sexual exploitation.

[US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations](#)

A Parent’s Guide to Internet Safety offers straight-forward definitions, FAQ’s, “what if” scenarios, signs your child may be at risk, and suggestions about how to respond safely.

[Wired Safety, Inc.](#)

Learn how to protect your privacy and security online, and how to teach responsible Internet use. Parenting Online is a handbook available here offering guidance on what the real risks are and how to set the rules.

[Stop Cyberbullying](#)

Often kids are too embarrassed, ashamed, or afraid to tell their parents about online bullying. This comprehensive website on cyberbullying includes valuable information for parents, youth, schools, and law enforcement. Find out how you can take action to prevent or intervene in cyberbullying.

[ConnectSafely](#)

Join this online forum where parents, teens, educators, and experts discuss and learn about safe blogging and social networking. In addition to the forum, ConnectSafely offers social media safety tips in English and Spanish, the latest in youth-tech news, and more.

If You are Concerned About Your Own or Someone Else's Behavior Online

[Stop It Now! UK and Ireland](#)

A free, anonymous, self-directed online program offers techniques to identify and cope with difficult emotions and thoughts which can lead to illegal use of the Internet. Not meant as a substitute for professional advice or treatment.

[Cybersexualaddiction.com](#)

If you or someone you know is using the computer for sexual activities that are causing harm or hardship to themselves or those they love, there are resources here for self-tests, books, articles, and support.

[The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers \(ATSA\)](#)

A national membership of professionals who specialize in the treatment of adults and youth who are at risk to be or have been sexually abusive. Contact ATSA for a confidential referral. (503)-643-1023 or atsa@atsa.com