The Internet Environment

The Internet offers many educational, informational, and entertainment opportunities. However, it also contains many dangers.

- Sexual predators use the Internet to identify and meet children for sexual victimization.

- Commercial and person-to-person trade in child pornography is rampant online.

- Once you put your picture or other information on the Internet, it can never be completely erased. Predators, identity thieves and bullies use this information to hurt kids.

Parents can reduce the risks to their children through:

- Education

- Supervision

- Setting limits

- Parental control software

For more Internet safety information:

Idaho ICAC Task Force
www.icacidaho.org

Idaho Attorney General
www.ag.idaho.gov
Click on "ProtecTeens"

NetSmartz
www.netsmartz.org

Internet Keep Safe Coalition
www.ikeepsafe.org

For technical information and parental control software information:

GetNetWise
www.getnetwise.org

Microsoft
www.microsoft.com/protect

The Idaho Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) is a statewide coalition of local, state and federal prosecutors and law enforcement agencies.
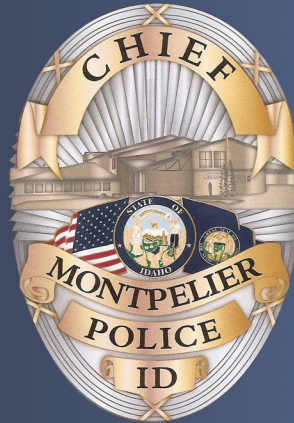
We protect Idaho's children through community education and by identifying, arresting and prosecuting those who commit Internet crimes against children.

IDAHO
ICAC
INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN
TASK FORCE

For More Information:

Montpelier Police Department
534 Washington Street
Montpelier, ID 83254
208-847-1324
www.icacidaho.org

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ICAC
INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN
TASK FORCE

Internet crimes against children are, primarily, crimes of sexual exploitation of children. These crimes include distribution of child pornography and using the Internet to target children for sexual abuse.
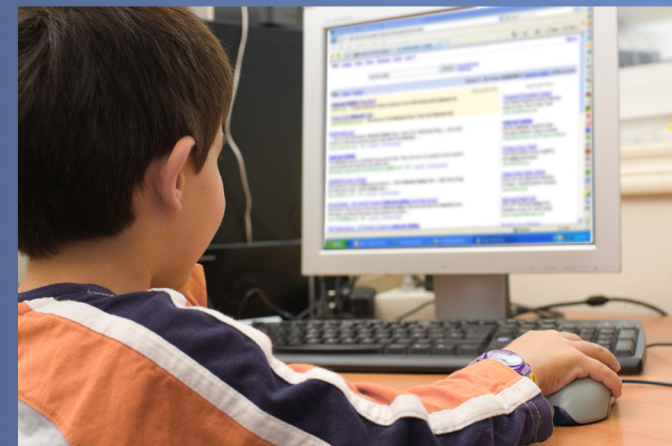
Report Internet sexual solicitation of children or Internet child pornography
1-800-843-5678 or
www.cybertipline.org

Kids & Teens – Internet Safety

Some people on the Internet want to hurt kids. They often pretend to be a kid or a friendly adult so that you will trust them. When you meet someone on the Internet, you can never be certain that they really are who they say they are.

If anything you see or anyone who in is touch with you on the Internet makes you uncomfortable, tell your parents right away.

Talk to your parents about the Web sites and online activities that interest you. Agree with them on rules for your safe Internet use.

When you are online, never give anyone personal information like your name, address, phone number, your parents' names or where they work, or the name and location of your school. Do not put personal information in your online profile. Use a screen name that is different from your real name and your e-mail address.

The Internet has places for adults only. If you find yourself in one of those places, immediately tell your parents how you got there and how you feel about what you saw.

Never respond to messages or bulletin board items that are sexually suggestive, obscene, threatening, or that make you feel uncomfortable for any reason. If someone harasses you online, says anything inappropriate, or does anything that makes you feel uncomfortable, give a copy of the message to your parents immediately and ask them to contact your Internet service provider (ISP).

Never open e-mails from people you don't know. Delete them right away. They could contain bad things like viruses, spy ware, or sexually explicit material.

Stay out of "chat rooms." Some users are not who they say they are and are interested in illegal activity, like identity theft or sexually abusing kids. Someone who says "she" is a 14-year-old girl from New York who wants to make friends may really be a 42-year-old man from California who wants something else.

Never post pictures or send them to someone you meet online. Once you send the picture, you can never get it back. It can go anywhere in the world, people can change it and it can never be completely erased.

It is dangerous to get together with someone you met online. We recommend that you never do it. However, if your parents agree to the meeting, they should go with you, and the meeting should be in a public place.

If you are having problems at home, with your friends, or at school, talk to your parents, a counselor, a teacher, or another adult you trust. The Internet or an online friend may not be the best place to go for help. An online "friend" may only be pretending to care about you so he can take advantage of you when you are feeling down.

RED FLAGS FOR PARENTS

- **Your child changes or minimizes the computer screen when you walk into the room.**

- **Your child starts spending a lot more time online.**

- **Your child starts getting phone calls from people you don't know.**

- **Your child has new clothes, CDs or other items from unknown sources.**

- **Your child gets overly upset if Internet access is restricted or unavailable for even a short time.**

- **Your child is unusually withdrawn or non-communicative.**

Safety Information For Adults

Talk to your children about the dangers of the Internet. Agree upon rules for Internet use before you allow them to go online. Use the "Family Contract for Internet Safety." (available at www.ag.idaho.gov)

Teach your children to tell you if anything they see online makes them feel uncomfortable.

Notify the police immediately if an online contact tries to meet with your child.

Do not allow your child to meet in person someone they met online. If you choose to allow such a meeting, accompany your child and meet in a public place.

Protect personal information. Never allow your child to provide addresses, phone numbers, names or the name and location of your child's school. Do not include personal information in an online profile. Pedophiles use profiles to find victims.

Keep online computers in the family room or other public area of the home, not in your child's room.

Do not allow your child to respond to messages that are sexually suggestive, obscene or threatening. Forward such messages to your Internet Service Provider (ISP).

Regularly have your children show you the Web sites they visit. Get to know their online friends just as you would their regular friends.

Use parental controls and/or blocking software.

Check the web browser history files and cache on computers your children use. Visit their MySpace, Facebook and other social networking pages to see what is posted. Check how often the pages are visited to be sure you have the page your child really is using.

Maintain access to your child's account and randomly check e-mail.

Do not allow your children to use chat rooms. Even seemingly safe "kids" chat rooms can be dangerous.