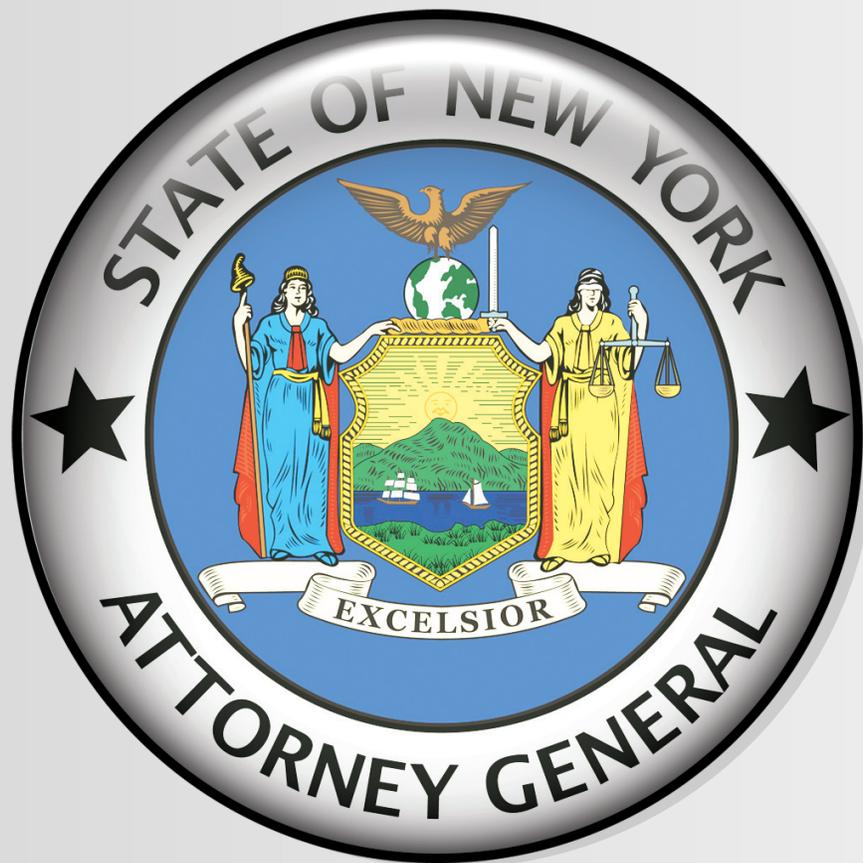


Your Child's D.I.G.I.T.A.L Life



Safety Tips for Parents

Dear New Yorkers,

The Internet is an invaluable resource for both children and adults. However, just like in the real world, there are dangers in the digital world. Children can be naive and may not realize the implications of revealing even small amounts of information on-line. **Predators and scam artists often rely on the inexperience and innocence of our youth to collect information they can use to exploit others for their own benefit.**

As your top law enforcement agent, I am committed to keeping criminals off-line through strengthened legislation and vigilant enforcement of safety regulations. But in the anonymous world of cyberspace, kids need to be protected by informed parents. That is why I have partnered with The NetSmartz Workshop® to help parents understand what kids are doing on-line and how to protect them from the dangers of on-line activity.

Take this booklet home and talk to your kids about how to stay safe while surfing the Internet. Together, we can ensure our kids safely enjoy their on-line lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Cuomo". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Andrew Cuomo

Set Your Own Rules

- ✓ You are your child's Internet access provider!
 - ✓ What websites
 - ✓ What programs
 - ✓ Which people
 - ✓ How much time on-line
- ✓ Keep the computer in a common room or non-secluded room (but remember they can get on-line anywhere with cell phones, PDAs, wireless...)
- ✓ Ask your children about their on-line activities
 - ✓ Are they being verbally harassed on IM?
 - ✓ Is a friend leaving obscene comments on their profile?



Safeguard

✓ Filtering software - restricts access to inappropriate material.

✓ Monitoring software - records websites visited, chat conversations, and other content.

*Filtering and monitoring software can help you keep your kids safe on-line but it is no substitute for parental supervision!

Encourage Reporting

✓ Only 12% of youth who encountered a sexual solicitation told a parent.

✓ Only 5% of sexual solicitations were reported to authorities.

*Encourage your children to tell a trusted adult if they ever feel scared, uncomfortable or confused.

Don't Reveal Too Much On-line

Personal information can expose your child to sexual solicitation, predators, identity thieves and cyberbullies.

Try not to share too much of this information on-line:

✓ **Name**

✓ **Age**

✓ **Birthday**

✓ **Phone Numbers**

✓ **Schedule**

✓ **School**

✓ **Locations**

✓ **Photos and Videos** (Especially if they reveal identifying information, show sexually provocative poses or too much skin)



Safer Social Networking Tips

✓ Make your own profile and add your children as friends.

✓ Learn the site's safety features.
(Not all sites have the same rules)

✓ Have children use privacy settings.

✓ Examine their list of friends and browse their
friends' pages.



The Super **TOP SECRET** Inst

What You See

TOP SECRET

NYC1: Hi evry1!
Sgrnspicie: GTSY NYC
NYC1: U2 S^?
HEARTU: NYC1, WB!
HEARTU: WAYD? R U in NYC?
NYC1: Styng @ sista's dorm
Sgrnspicie: Let's meet ^ 2dy
SirSurf: Hola
NYC1: Hi, SS. A/S/L?
SirSurf: 17/M/NJ



ant Messaging Decoder

For Parents Eyes Only

DECODED Message

Hi everyone!
Good to see you NYC1
You too. What's up?
NYC1, Welcome back!
What are you doing?
Are you in New York City?
Staying at my sister's dorm
Lets meet up today
Hola
Age/Sex/Location?
17 years old/male/NJ

TOP SECRET

Cell Phone Safety

Children should:

✓ Never post their cell phone number on-line.

✓ Not respond to harassing texts.

✓ Never send explicit images of themselves.

*Remember: Since many cell phones have wireless internet access kids should remember that if they text a friend, they text everybody!

Webcam Safety

Children should:

- ✓ Check their surroundings for revealing information.
- ✓ Remember that videos can be saved, accessed, and altered.
- ✓ Remember that a funny photo/video today may be a permanent part of their digital resume tomorrow.

Keep Downloading Legal

- ✓ Check your computer for file-sharing programs to make sure that your child is not downloading or sharing material illegally.
- ✓ Consider monitoring or filtering software.
- ✓ Set rules about purchasing music and other media files together.

Prevent Identity Theft

- ✓ Password protect or encrypt any important documents on a computer hard drive.
- ✓ Only use secure Internet sites when conducting financial transactions.
- ✓ Commit all passwords to memory. Do not use easy-to-guess passwords, such as the last four digits of your SSN, DOB, middle name, etc. or the same password for everything.
- ✓ If you receive notice of an information security breach from a company or State agency, contact all three credit reporting bureaus and place a fraud alert for 90 days.
- ✓ Tell your kids to keep your personal information private as well!

Stop Cyberbullying

Teach your kids to:

✓ Walk away from the computer, cell phone, PDA if conversation gets heated and to tell you immediately if they are being bullied.

✓ Keep private information off-line. Rumors spread very quickly on-line and the most common form of bullying is the publication of private communications.

✓ Respect other people's privacy and feelings and not to be cyberbullies themselves.

*Remember: if bullying includes physical or sexual harm, damage to property, makes your child afraid to go to school or involves an adult it could be assault or harassment. These are criminal offenses & you should contact your local law enforcement agency.

Grooming Warning Signs

- ✓ Obsessive about being on-line and angry if not able to get on-line.
- ✓ Minimizes the screen/turns off the computer when adults are nearby.
- ✓ Visits inappropriate websites, chat rooms.
- ✓ Receives gifts from someone you do not know.
- ✓ Has a lot of phone calls to and from numbers that you do not know.
- ✓ Becomes withdrawn from family and friends.

Contact Us

Visit NetSmartz websites

- <http://www.NetSmartz.org>
- <http://www.NetSmartzKids.org>

Send NetSmartz an e-mail

- NetSmartz_contact@ncmec.org

Call 1-800-843-5678

New York State Attorney General

- www.oag.ny.gov



Additional Resources

Cyber Tipline

- <http://www.cybertipline.com>



NetSmartz411

- <http://www.NetSmartz411.org>



ICAC

- <http://www.icactraining.org>



IKeepSafe.org



WiredSafety.org



