

PREDATORS 101: RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Protecting Children from Internet Predators



Important Resources

A) CyberTipline

The CyberTipline is a reporting mechanism for child sexual exploitation including child pornography, online enticement of children for sex acts, molestation of children outside the family, sex tourism of children, child victims of prostitution, and unsolicited obscene material sent to a child. Reports may be made 24 hours per day, 7 days per week online at www.cybertipline.com or by calling 1-800-843-5678.

B) Amber™ Alert

The AMBER Alert program is a partnership between law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies, and the wireless industry to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. The goal of an AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for and the safe recovery of the child. (www.amberalert.gov)

C) Family Watchdog®

Family Watchdog is a free service to locate registered sex offenders in your area. Simply enter an address and it will provide a map of any sex offenders within the vicinity. Enough Is Enough recommends that parents check the sex offender registry in their neighborhood, near their child's school, as well as other areas frequented by the child. (www.familywatchdog.us)

What You Can Do

Communication is key in protecting children from online exploitation. One way to keep children safer is to supervise their online activities or limit their access to sites that can facilitate online interaction with people they don't know and trust in real life. If you allow your children access to these sites, you should discuss Internet safety often. Monitor children's Internet use: ask them what sites they visit and to show you any profiles they may have posted online.

Parents and caregivers need to:

- Pay attention to what your kids are doing online, and ask your child non-threatening questions.
- Avoid over-reacting if your kids have been talking to people they don't know online or if they admit that they've come across a dangerous or tricky situation online.
- **Ask "Has an online stranger..."**
 - ◇ Tried to befriend you? If so, how do you know this person?"
 - ◇ Talked to you about sex?"
 - ◇ Asked you for personal information?"
 - ◇ Asked you for pictures? Sent you pictures?"
 - ◇ Said anything to make you feel uncomfortable?"
 - ◇ Offered to send you gifts?"

Warning Signs

Your child may be in contact with an online predator if he or she:

- A) Becomes secretive about online activities
- B) Becomes obsessive about being online
- C) Gets angry when he or she can't get online
- D) Receives phone calls from people you do not know or makes calls to numbers that you do not recognize
- E) Receives gifts, mail, or packages from someone you do not know
- F) Withdraws from family and friends
- G) Changes screens or turns off computer when an adult enters a room
- H) Begins downloading pornography online

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1-888-744-0004