



PREVENT CHILD ABUSE
KENTUCKY

Social Web Tips for Parents and Teens

Think about what you post. Sharing provocative photos or intimate details online, even in private emails, can cause you problems later. Even people you consider friends can use this info against you, especially if they become ex-friends.

Read between the “lines.” It may be fun to check out new people for friendship or romance, but be aware, while some people are nice, others act nice because they are trying to get something. Flattering or supportive messages may be more about manipulation than friendship or romance.

Do not talk about sex with strangers. Be cautious when communicating with people you do not know in person, especially if the conversation starts to be about sex or physical details. Do not lead them on—you do not want to be the target of a predator’s grooming. If they persist, call your local police or contact CyberTipline.com.

Avoid in-person meetings. The only way someone can physically harm you is if you are both in the same location, so—to be 100% safe—do not meet them in person. If you really have to get together with someone you “met” online, do not go alone. Have the meeting in a public place, tell a parent or some other solid backup, and bring some friends along.

Be smart when using a cell phone. All the same tips apply with phones as with computers; except phones are with you wherever you are, often away from home and your usual support systems. Be careful who you give your number to and how you use GPS and other technologies that can pinpoint your physical location.

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