PROTECTING YOUTH FROM Sex Trafficking

Take the steps needed to keep your kids safe and away from potential predators

PHONE SAFETY TIPS

• Have passwords set so personal information cannot be accessed.
• Be clear about appropriate and inappropriate phone usage.
• Have a conversation about how texts, messages, and images can be easily forwarded and seen by more than just the person to whom they were originally sent.

• Know what apps your child is downloading.
• Make sure GPS location services are only turned on for navigation apps and that your child’s location is not being publicized when posting on social media.
• Talk to your children about not allowing others to use their phone when they’re not around. (It gives the person access to all of their passwords and social media.)
• Explain the importance of paying attention to any permissions that apps may request.
• Talk about not giving out their cell phone number to strangers.
• Make sure that you and your child double check the security settings on their phone.
• Let your child know that cell phone activity can also be seen on the internet as information from phone-based apps (like Snapchat), which can be gathered online and made public.

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INTERNET SAFETY TIPS

• Set house rules. This should include outlining how long your child can be online, what sites they can visit, and which activities are acceptable.
• Make sure your child does not have any personal information included in their online profiles.
• Ask your child if they personally know all of their friends on social media.
• Double check who has access to their online profiles.
• Have a conversation with your child about privacy settings and how they do not guarantee privacy.
• Have conversations with your kids about their online activities. This should include setting ground rules and showing interest in their hobbies.
• Use internet filters to block certain sites and content.
• Have a conversation with your kids about not meeting in person with anyone that they meet online, unless you approve.
• Educate yourself on all of the websites and apps that your child is using.

TO REPORT CYBERBULLYING

• Don’t respond and don’t forward any cyberbullying messages.
• Keep the evidence and record the dates and times.
• Block the individual.
• Review the “Terms and Conditions” section of the online platform that you are using and then follow their procedure to report.

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