

CYBERBULLYING

- Report the bullying to the website or network where it appears.
- Delete the bully from your list of “friends” or “buddies,” or block the bully’s username or e-mail address.
- Share these measures with a friend who is a victim of bullying. Bullying usually stops quickly when peers intervene on behalf of the victim.

Although the vast majority of online services and Internet material is legitimate and benign, there have been numerous incidents of children receiving pornographic material, providing personal information under the pretext of possibly winning a prize, or sending money for promised benefits or products. Warning signs of these dangers include the following:

- Excessive late-night computer use
- Secretive behavior about computer associates
- Pornography
- Receiving phone calls, mail, gifts, or packages from persons you don’t know
- Making phone calls to numbers you don’t recognize
- Hidden files or directories, and password-protected bios, files, or logical drives
- Turning the computer monitor off or quickly changing the screen when you enter the room
- Becoming withdrawn from the family

If your child exhibits any of the above warning signs, immediately contact your local law enforcement agency.

***“Protecting Our Community With
Exceptional Service”***

CYBERSAFETY FOR YOUTH

(A Parent’s Guide)



Oxnard Police Department

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(805) 385-7668 / Fax (805) 385-7739

www.oxnardpd.org

<https://www.facebook.com/OxnardPD>

Although your child might be alone in the room when they log onto a device, once the internet is accessed, they are no longer alone. Criminals routinely use the internet to gain access to personal information for their use. Use these rules to help your child avoid becoming a victim.

MINIMIZING INTERNET DANGERS

You should do the following to minimize Internet dangers that your children may encounter:

- Start early. Talk to your children about online behavior, safety, and security as soon as they start using a computer, cell phone, or any mobile device.
- Set reasonable guidelines and time limits for Internet and cell phone use, and social networking.
- Keep the computer in the family room or other area where its use can be monitored.
- Know what Internet access your children have away from home.
- Make sure they understand the importance of password and privacy protection, and not to share passwords or log-on names with anyone but you. Ask your children for their passwords and log-ins.
- Discourage your children from visiting chat rooms. Persons who would harm children use these websites to entice children.
- Use filtering software to scan for offensive words and phrases.
- Check the computer's cache and history to see what websites have been accessed.
- Learn the meaning of the acronyms your children use in texting.
- Make sure your child's screen name does not reveal any identifying information such as name, age, location, school. A screen name should be benign and innocuous.
- Prohibit your children from downloading anything without your permission.
- Tell your children it's not safe to put any type of personal identifying information on a personal website without privacy settings.
- Have your children ask permission before listing any adults as "friends" online.

CELL PHONE SAFETY

- Be polite and respect others. Avoid using shorthand that might lead to misunderstandings. If you have to think twice about a post, don't post it!
- Ignore messages from people you don't know.
- Block numbers of people you don't want to hear from.
- Don't post your cell phone number on the Internet.
- Never provide personal or financial information in response to a text message.
- Use "cc" and "Reply all" with care.

DANGERS OF SOCIAL NETWORKING

- Never say they are home alone.
- Never to give out their name, address, phone number, photos, or any other personal information that can identify them. Avoid posting anything that would enable a stranger to find them, e.g., school names. Members' profiles become public information.
- Be careful about adding strangers to their list of "friends." People aren't always who they say they are.
- Don't post anything that they wouldn't want the world to know, especially anything or language that might embarrass them later, e.g., in applying for college or a job. What's uploaded can be posted online forever.

KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE Online



- Never send out any pictures of themselves, family members, or friends.
- Come to you to discuss any harassment, hate speech, and inappropriate content they receive. Talk to you if they are upset about what is being said about them.
- Check comments regularly. Ignore and don't respond to any that are mean or embarrassing.
- Don't talk about sex or use any sexually explicit language.
- Block people from sending messages or e-mail, or delete them from their "buddy list" if they harass you.
- Change their password if someone hacks into their profile.