



# PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

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## CYBER SECURITY—AN IMPORTANT PART OF MODERN LIFE

The Internet is here and pretty much accepted by everyone for communicating with friends and business associates, for looking up information, for shopping, and for entertainment.

**Revealing Too Much.** Often though, we reveal too much about ourselves online. Children can be most susceptible about revealing too much about themselves and their families. They can share your home address, their phone numbers, private thoughts, and pictures.

Revealing too much information about yourself can open the child and the family to:

- **Scammers**— Scammers can use a child's (and a parent's) personal information, such as email addresses and phone numbers, to manipulate them with spam, telemarketing, and email scams.
- **Cyberbullies**— Cyberbullies use their target's personal information and use it against them. They can copy and change photos; share private emails or instant messages; or taunt them with emotional insecurities revealed in blogs or emails.
- **Predators**— Predators look for information on child victims to groom and manipulate them. A predator will try to create trust by the child by being sympathetic to their insecurities and conflicts.

Eventually, the predator may introduce talking about sex to make them more comfortable about sex.

While we receive the benefits of the Internet we need to be aware of how we can protect ourselves from the dangers and we need to teach our children how to protect themselves from those dangers.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) has a web site, [www.netismartz.org](http://www.netismartz.org), that provides hints and tips on how children can protect themselves from the dangers of the Internet. It has educational materials for parents, kids (grade school through teens), law enforcement, and educators.

NCMEC also sponsors a tip line for citizens to report crimes against children. If you think your child is a victim of cyberbullying or a sexual predator go to:

[www.CyberTipline.com](http://www.CyberTipline.com)

or call:

1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

And then notify the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.

The following link gives a brief overview of cybersecurity:

[www.netismartz.org/StreamingPresentations/InternetSafetyBasics](http://www.netismartz.org/StreamingPresentations/InternetSafetyBasics)



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## CYBER SECURITY- USING SOCIAL NETWORKING SAFELY

- Check your child's friend lists to see who has access to his or her profile. Make sure your child knows all friends in person.
- Teach your child to set profiles to private—but be aware that privacy settings do not guarantee complete privacy.
- Have your child remove any inappropriate content and photos and delete any personal information.
- Check the profiles of your child's friends to see if there is revealing information or photos about your child.
- Report inappropriate or criminal behavior to the appropriate authority. Most sites have a reporting mechanism for non-criminal behavior. Criminal behavior should be reported through law-enforcement agencies and the CyberTipline® at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com).

## CYBER SECURITY- SOCIAL NETWORKING

Teens use social networking sites (SNS) such as MySpace, Facebook, Bebo, and Twitter because they give them:

- An easy way to share their lives with their friends and family
- The chance to try on different identities and explore new interests
- A semi-private platform on which to communicate outside of the supervision of adults

With these benefits, however, also come some risks. Teens on SNS may share personal information which leaves them vulnerable to people who want to harm them. They may also share inappropriate or illegal content which endangers future academic or employment opportunities. Understanding the various ways content can be shared can help trusted adults talk to teens about ways to stay safer while using SNS.

### Some Social Networking Basic Features-

Following are some features that your child might find on a typical social networking site. With a SNS instead of opening multiple applications, a user can rely on one place to serve all their communications needs.

**Blogs-** These online journals or diaries are becoming a common part of many SNS.

**Comment Walls-** A popular feature of most SNS that allows users to communicate through comments left on each others' pages.

**E-mail-** Most SNS have an e-mail feature through which users can communicate privately or with select groups.

**Friends Lists-** These contact lists are usually comprised of people a child knows offline, but also include friends of friends and others they have only met online.

**Instant Messaging-** Some SNS, such as Facebook, have made chat features available to users.

**Pictures and Videos-** Most SNS allow users to post a profile picture. Many also allow users to post photos and videos to an online "album."

**Status Updates-** Users post these short sentences to let the people on their friends list know their actions, feelings, and thoughts.

## CYBER SECURITY- CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying has been receiving more publicity in the last few years. According to [www.netismartz.org](http://www.netismartz.org):

Cyberbullying is just what it sounds like - bullying through Internet applications and technologies such as instant messaging (IM), social networking sites, and cell phones. It can start easily—with a rumor, a photo, or a forwarded message—and just as easily spiral out of control. An embarrassing video posted to a social networking site by someone in Kansas tonight may be watched by someone in Japan tomorrow. Cyberbullying victims may be targeted anywhere, at any time.

Common forms of cyberbullying include:

**Flaming and Trolling** – sending or posting hostile messages intended to “inflamm” the emotions of others.

**Happy-Slapping** – recording someone being harassed or bullied in a way that usually involves physical abuse, then posting the video online for public viewing.

**Identity Theft/Impersonation** – stealing someone’s password and/or hijacking their online accounts to send or post incriminating or humiliating pictures, videos, or information.

**Photoshopping** – doctoring digital images so that the main subject is placed in a compromising or embarrassing situation.

**Physical Threats** – sending messages that involve threats to a person’s physical safety.

**Rumor Spreading** – spreading gossip

through e-mail, text messaging, or social networking sites.

Here are some signs your child may be a victim of cyberbullying:

- Avoids the computer, cell phone, and other technological devices or appears stressed when receiving an e-mail, instant message, or text
- Withdraws from family and friends or acts reluctant to attend school and social events
- Avoids conversations about computer use
- Exhibits signs of low self-esteem including depression and/or fear
- Has declining grades
- Has poor eating or sleeping habits

For more information about cyberbullying read:

Hinduja, S., Patchin J. *Bullying Beyond the Schoolyard: Preventing and Responding to Cyberbullying*. Thousand Oaks: Corwin Press, 2009.

For more information take a look at this:

[www.netismartz.org/cyberbullying](http://www.netismartz.org/cyberbullying)

**Report Cyberbullying to**  
[www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com)  
**and the Snohomish**  
**County Sheriff’s Office**

## HELP PROTECT CHILDREN FROM BULLYING

- Tell your child not to respond to rude e-mails, messages, and comments.
- Save the evidence, such as email and text messages, and take screenshots of comments and images. Also, take note of the date and time when the harassment occurs.
- Contact your Internet service provider (ISP) or cell phone provider. Ask the website administrator or ISP to remove any Web page created to hurt your child.
- If harassment is via **e-mail, social networking sites, IM, and chat rooms**, instruct your child to “block” bullies or delete your child’s current account and open a new one.
- If harassment is via **text and phone messages**, change the phone number and instruct your child to only share the new number with trustworthy people.

## CYBER SECURITY- PREDATORS

The Internet did not create child predators, but it does increase the opportunities predators have to meet victims while minimizing detection. Predators can communicate with children anonymously through a variety of ways including instant messaging, social networking sites, chat rooms, message boards, and even cell phones.

### Grooming

Predators take advantage of a child's natural vulnerabilities, such as their desire to appear adult or their need for attention. "Grooming" is the process through which predators play on these vulnerabilities by offering children gifts and attention.

Grooming can be a long process that a patient and tenacious predator has planned and perfected to gain a child's trust. This grooming may lead to the child's willingness to meet the person with whom he or she is chatting. Offenders will often entice a child into a face-to-face meeting by:

- Exploiting a child's natural curiosity about sex
- Lowering the child's inhibitions by gradually introducing explicit images and child sex abuse images
- Using his or her adult status to influence and control a child's behavior
- Offering attention and affection
- Betraying a child's trust by manipulating his or her emotions and insecurities

### Guarding Against Predators

Children who experience online victimization may not share personal details with their

parent or guardian, but there are warning signs that can help identify a child who has faced a situation of online victimization. If a child discloses to you that they have been exploited, reassure him or her that talking to an adult is the right action to take and divert any blame away from the victim.

### Warning Signs of Grooming or Exploitation in your Child

- Spends an excessive amount of time on the computer
- Becomes angry when he or she cannot get on the computer
- Withdraws from family and friends
- Minimizes the screen or turns off the monitor when you come into the room
- Inappropriate images or websites on the computer
- Strange phone numbers on your telephone bill
- Gifts in the mail from someone you don't know, such as webcams or cell phones

For more about online predators, go to:

<http://www.netsmartz.org/>

[Predators](#)

## CRIME PREVENTION COORDINATORS

### OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org

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## NEWSLETTER INFO

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If you have questions regarding this newsletter or any articles that appear in it, please contact the editor at neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org

## TIP LINES



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office: 425-388-3845

<http://www.snoco.org/app/ssh/anonymoustips/>

Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound: 1-800-222-8477

**CYBER SECURITY- TOP INTERNET ABBREVIATIONS PARENTS NEED TO KNOW**

Children communicate in more ways now than their parents did. They frequently abbreviate words and phrases to get around limitations of keyboards and services. Here are some abbreviations that you might see (some of the following abbreviations are sexually graphic or use strong language and may not be appropriate for children):

- 8 - Oral sex
- 1337 - Elite -or- leet -or- L337
- 143 - I love you
- 182 - I hate you
- 1174 - Nude club
- 420 - Marijuana
- 459 - I love you
- ADR - Address
- AEAP - As Early As Possible
- ALAP - As Late As Possible
- ASL - Age/Sex/Location
- CD9 - Code 9 - it means parents are around
- C-P - Sleepy
- F2F - Face-to-Face
- GNOC - Get Naked On Cam
- GYPO - Get Your Pants Off
- HAK - Hugs And Kisses
- ILU - I Love You
- IWSN - I Want Sex Now
- J/O - Jerking Off
- KOTL - Kiss On The Lips

- KFY -or- K4Y - Kiss For You
- KPC - Keeping Parents Clueless
- LMIRL - Let's Meet In Real Life
- MOOS - Member Of The Opposite Sex
- MOSS - Member(s) Of The Same Sex
- MorF - Male or Female
- MOS - Mom Over Shoulder
- MPFB - My Personal F\*\*\* Buddy
- NALOPKT - Not A Lot Of People Know That
- NIFOC - Nude In Front Of The Computer
- NMU - Not Much, You?
- P911 - Parent Alert
- PAL - Parents Are Listening
- 2moro - Tomorrow
- 2nite - Tonight
- BRB - Be Right Back
- BTW - By The Way
- B4N - Bye For Now
- BCNU - Be Seeing You
- BFF - Best Friends Forever
- CYA - Cover Your Ass -or- See Ya
- DBEYR - Don't Believe Everything You Read
- DILLIGAS - Do I Look Like I Give A Sh\*\*
- FUD - Fear, Uncertainty, and Disinformation
- FWIW - For What It's Worth
- GR8 - Great
- ILY - I Love You

**TIP LINES**



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## CYBER SECURITY- PREDATORS

IMHO - In My Humble Opinion	TLC - Tender Loving Care
IRL - In Real Life	TMI - Too Much Information
ISO - In Search Of	TTYL - Talk To You Later -or- Type To You Later
J/K - Just Kidding	TYVM - Thank You Very Much
L8R - Later	VBG - Very Big Grin
LMAO - Laughing My Ass Off	WEG - Wicked Evil Grin
LOL - Laughing Out Loud -or- Lots Of Love	WTF - What The F***
LYLAS - Love You Like A Sister	WYWH - Wish You Were Here
MHOTY - My Hat's Off To You	XOXO - Hugs and Kisses
NIMBY - Not In My Back Yard	PAW - Parents Are Watching
NP - No Problem -or- Nosy Parents	PIR - Parent In Room
NUB - New person to a site or game	POS - Parent Over Shoulder -or- Piece Of Sh**
OIC - Oh, I See	pron - porn
OMG - Oh My God	Q2C - Quick To C**
OT - Off Topic	RU/18 - Are You Over 18?
POV - Point Of View	RUMORF - Are You Male OR Female?
RBTL - Read Between The Lines	RUH - Are You Horny?
ROTFLMAO - Rolling On The Floor Laughing My Ass Off	S2R - Send To Receive
RT - Real Time	SorG - Straight or Gay
THX or TX or THKS - Thanks	TDTM - Talk Dirty To Me
SH - Sh** Happens	WTF - What The F***
SITD - Still In The Dark	WUF - Where You From
SOL - Sh** Out of Luck	WYCM - Will You Call Me?
STBY - Sucks To Be You	WYRN - What's Your Real Name?
SWAK - Sealed (or Sent) With A Kiss	zerg - To gang up on someone
TFH - Thread From Hell	
RTM or RTFM - Read The Manual -or- Read The F***ing Manual	

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