

✓ Understand, even if your child was a willing participant in any form of sexual exploitation, that he/she is not at fault and is the victim. **The offender always bears the complete responsibility for his or her actions.**

INSTRUCT YOUR CHILDREN:

✓ to **never arrange a face-to-face meeting** with someone they met on-line;

✓ to **never upload (post) pictures of themselves** onto the Internet or on-line service to people they do not personally know;

✓ to **never give out identifying information** such as their name, home address, school name, or telephone number;

✓ to **never download pictures from an unknown source**, as there is a good chance there could be sexually explicit images;

✓ to **never respond to messages or bulletin board postings** that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, or harassing;

✓ that things they are told **on-line may or may not be true.**

PARENTAL MONITORING MUST BE DONE!

According to a recent study:

40% of the teenage girls surveyed said they had experienced sexual advances online.

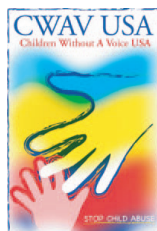
25% of the girls said they had met someone in person after first meeting them on the Web.

55% of adolescent Internet users have or are currently using social networking web sites.

CREDITS

Material for this brochure was taken directly from www.FBI.gov

Computer on front of brochure by FOTOCROMO.

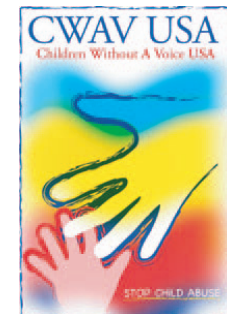


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WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW



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WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ONLINE PREDATORS

While on-line computer exploration opens a world of possibilities for children, expanding their horizons and exposing them to different cultures and ways of life, they can be exposed to dangers as they hit the road exploring the information highway.

There are individuals who attempt to sexually exploit children through the use of on-line services and the Internet. Some of these individuals gradually seduce their targets through the use of attention, affection, kindness, and even gifts.

These individuals are often willing to devote considerable amounts of time, money, and energy in this process. They listen to and empathize with the problems of children. They will be aware of the latest music, hobbies, and interests of children.

These individuals attempt to gradually lower children's inhibitions by slowly introducing sexual context and content into their conversations.

Children, especially adolescents, are sometimes interested in and curious about sexuality and sexually explicit material. They may be moving away from the total control of parents and seeking to establish new relationships outside their family. Because they may be curious, children/adolescents sometimes use their on-line access to actively seek out such materials and individuals.

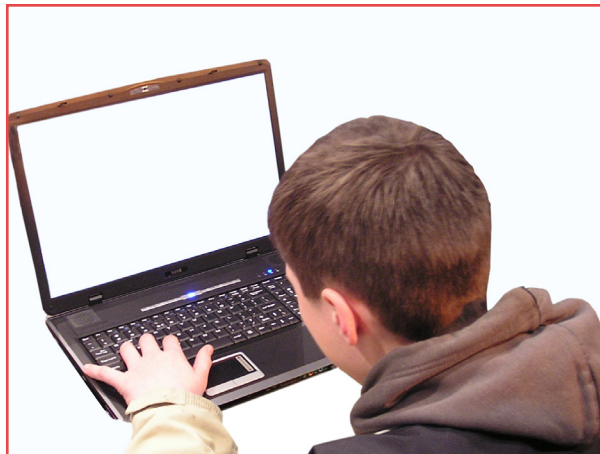
Sex offenders targeting children will use and exploit these characteristics and needs. **Some adolescent children may also be attracted to and lured by on-line offenders closer to their age who, although not technically child molesters, may be dangerous.**

In any case, children can be seduced and most likely manipulated by a clever offender and do not fully understand or recognize the potential danger of these contacts.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS?

✓ **Communicate**, and talk to your child about sexual victimization and potential on-line danger.

✓ **Spend time with your children on-line.** Have them teach you about their favorite on-line destinations.



✓ **Keep the computer in a common room in the house**, not in your child's bedroom. It is much more difficult for a computer-sex offender to communicate with a child when the computer screen is visible to a parent or another member of the household.

✓ **Utilize parental controls** provided by your service provider and/or blocking software. While electronic chat can be a great place for children to make new friends and discuss various topics of interest, it is also prowled by computer-sex offenders. Use of chat rooms, in particular, should be heavily monitored. While parents should utilize these mechanisms, they should not totally rely on them.

✓ **Always maintain access to your child's on-line account** and randomly check his/her e-mail. Be aware that your child could be contacted through the U.S. Mail. Be up front with your child about your access and reasons why.

✓ **Teach your child the responsible use of the resources on-line.** There is much more to the on-line experience than chat rooms.

✓ **Find out what computer safeguards are utilized by your child's school**, the public library, and at the homes of your child's friends. These are all places, outside your normal supervision, where your child could encounter an on-line predator.