The Cyberspace Environment...

Today's Internet is a valuable tool that can enrich our lives by providing us with educational, informational, and entertainment resources. However, it's important to remember Cyberspace also contains many dangers. You must educate yourself and your family to keep safe.

Common online risks for young children and teens include:

- exposure to inappropriate material
- sexual solicitation
- harassment and bullying
- theft of personal information

Learn more by visiting:

NOVA/DC ICAC at www.novadcicac.org

NCMEC at www.missingkids.com

CyberTipline at www.cybertipline.com

Netsmartz at www.netsmartz.org

NetSafeKids at www.nap.edu/netsafekids

How You Can Help...

If you become aware of the online transmission, use, or viewing of child pornography, immediately make a report to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678 or www.cybertipline.com.
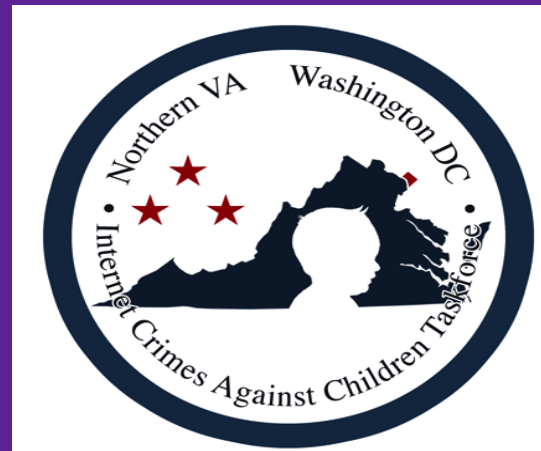
NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

ICAC
Internet Crimes Against Children
Task Force

OJJDP
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Task Force Members:

Alexandria Police Department
Arlington County Police Department
Clarke County Sheriff's Office
Culpeper County Sheriff's Office
Fairfax City Police Department
Fairfax County Police Department
Fairfax County Fire Marshall's Office
Falls Church Police Department
Fauquier County Sheriff's Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Housing Finance Agency
Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Fredericksburg City Police Department
George Mason University Police Department
Harrisonburg Police Department
Loudoun County Sheriff's Office
Madison County Sheriff's Office
Manassas City Police Department
Manassas Park Police Department
Metropolitan Police Dept. District of Columbia
Northern Virginia Community College Police
Orange County Sheriff's Office
Page County Sheriff's Office
Prince William County Police Department
Quantico Police Department
Rappahannock County Sheriff's Office
Rockingham County Sheriff's Office
Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office
Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office
Stafford County Sheriff's Office
Town of Culpeper Police Department
Town of Haymarket Police Department
Town of Herndon Police Department
Town of Leesburg Police Department
Town of Strasburg Police Department
Town of Vienna Police Department
Town of Warrenton Police Department
Town of Woodstock Police Department
U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations
U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
U.S. Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, D.H.S.
U.S. Internal Revenue Service
U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Services
U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
U.S. Postal Service Inspections
Virginia Attorney General's Office
Virginia State Police
Warren County Sheriff's Office
Winchester City Police Department

NORTHERN VIRGINIA
WASHINGTON, DC

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Task Force

HOTLINE 1-800-572-4510

THIS TOLL-FREE NUMBER IS MONITORED 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK.

The mission of the NOVA-DC ICAC Task Force is to protect the children in Northern Virginia & Washington DC area through community education, as well as the identification, apprehension, and prosecution of individuals involved in Internet crimes against children.

Kids & Teens...Surf Safely

♦ Before going online, talk with your parents about what types of websites and online activities you are interested in, and develop rules for your Internet use. *It's a matter of safety.*

♦ Never give out personal information such as your name, address, phone number, parents' names and work numbers, or the name and location of your school to anyone online. Do not include personal information in an online profile, and use a screen name that is different from your real name and your e-mail address.

♦ Never send pictures to someone you meet online without discussing it with your parents first. *Once the picture is sent you can never get it back,* and it becomes the property of everyone receiving it.

♦ If you "chat" in chat rooms, remember some users are not who they say they are and may be interested in illegal activities, such as identity theft or sexually abusing minors. A person who says "she" is a 14 year old girl from New York looking for a friend may really be a 42 year old man from California who doesn't really want to be "friends." The internet can be fun, but use caution when chatting with people you "meet" online.

♦ Never respond to messages or bulletin board items that are sexually suggestive, obscene, threatening, or that make you feel uncomfortable for any reason. If someone harasses you online, says anything inappropriate, or does anything that makes you uncomfortable, give a copy of the message to your parents immediately so they can contact your Internet service provider (ISP).

♦ Delete, without opening, all e-mails from senders you don't know. These e-mails could contain bad items like viruses, spyware, or sexually graphic material.

♦ There are many places on the Internet that are for adults only. If you find yourself in one of these places, immediately tell your parents how you got to the site and how you feel about what you saw.

Kids & Teens...Surf Safely (continued)

♦ Never agree to get together with someone you met online without your parent's permission. If your parents agree to the meeting, the meeting should be in a public place and your parents should go with you.

♦ If you are having problems at home, with your friends, or at school, the Internet or online "friend" may not be the best place to go for help. An online "friend" may not be interested in truly being your friend, and may try to take advantage of you when you are feeling down. Talk to your parents, a counselor, a teacher, or another adult you trust.

RED FLAGS FOR PARENTS

- Your child changes or minimizes the screen when you walk into the room.

- Your child suddenly spends substantially more time online.

- Your child starts getting strange phone calls from people you don't know.

- Your child has new clothes, CDs or other items from unknown sources.

- Your child gets overly upset if Internet access is restricted or unavailable for even a short time.

- Your child is unusually withdrawn.

- Your child has behavioral changes that have become suspicious.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Helpful Information for Adults

- Before allowing your kids to go online, develop rules for their Internet use. Rules should include what websites your child can visit, who they can talk to online, how long they can be online and where they can use a computer. *It isn't a matter of trust, it's a matter of safety.*

- Never give out personal information, or allow your child to give out personal information, such as addresses, phone numbers, names, or the name and location of your child's school. Do not include personal information in an online profile. Pedophiles often use profiles to find victims online.

- Keep the computer in a common area of the home such as the family room. *Computers with Internet access should not be kept in your child's room or be used when you are not at home.*

- Periodically review your child's e-mail account. Find out what websites your kids go to by checking the "history" folder of your Internet browser. Visit these sites and find out what type of information they offer.

- Become computer literate, to include learning chat room lingo.

- Many Internet service providers (ISPs) have tools, known as "filters", to help parents restrict the types of websites kids can access. Find out if your ISP offers filters and learn how to use them. There are also commercially available software programs designed to help parents monitor their kid's computer activities.

- Do not allow your child to respond to messages or bulletin board items that are sexually suggestive, obscene, or threatening. Forward a copy of such messages to your ISP.

- Never allow your child to arrange an in-person meeting with someone they met online without your permission. In-person meetings should occur in a public place and you should accompany your child.