

## What Can You Do In The Community To Help?

- ⇒ Make sure that your child's computer access at his/her school is always monitored by teachers or adults.
- ⇒ Know your children's friends and their parents. Make arrangement with the friends parents to get together and share your ideas and concerns with all the children present. Make it an two-way conversation, but lay down the expectations and rules. This way there can be no miscommunication and everyone is on the same page.
- ⇒ If you come across websites that are inappropriate for children when you are surfing the internet, or checking your child's on-line activities, send the website addresses to online services that offer parental control features or to sites advertising protection software. They will often add these sites to their lists of sites to be reviewed for inclusion or exclusion. Even if you don't belong or subscribe to the service or own the protection software, you could be helping other children. Also contact the search engine that you were using when you located the site.

*Children, especially adolescents, are sometimes interested in and curious about sexuality and explicit material. They may be moving away from the total control of parents and seeking new relationships outside the family unit. Because they may be curious, children and adolescents sometimes use their on-line access to actively seek out such materials and individuals. Sexual Predators targeting children will use and exploit these characteristics and needs. Some adolescent children may also be attracted to, and lured by, on-line predators closer to their own age. Although not technically child molesters, they are just as dangerous. Hopefully, these tips will better prepare you, as a parent, to fight the increasing battle with on-line dangers.*

## Sheriff's Office Precincts

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Millcreek Precinct                | 272-5225 |
| Holladay Precinct                 | 272-0426 |
| Cottonwood Hts Precinct           | 944-1830 |
| Kearns Precinct                   | 967-4420 |
| Magna Precinct                    | 250-1474 |
| Riverton Precinct                 | 254-0167 |
| Herriman Precinct                 | 302-2080 |
| Crime Prevention Unit             | 468-3901 |
| Graffiti Cleanup                  | 468-2182 |
| Sheriff's Office<br>Non-emergency | 743-7000 |
| Emergency                         | 911      |



LOL!

Salt Lake City FBI Office 579-1400



CITY of HOLLADAY

Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office  
Holladay City Precinct

## Internet Safety for Kids

# Internet Safety For Kids



## A Parents Guide

SALT LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
Sheriff James M. Winder

[www.slsheriff.org](http://www.slsheriff.org)  
743-7000

*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 on-line. Some of these individuals gradually seduce their targets through the use of attention, affection, kindness, and even gifts. They are willing to devote considerable amounts of time, money and energy in the process. It is important for parents to understand that children can be indirectly victimized through conversation, i.e. "Chat" as well as the transfer of explicit information and material. Parents and children should remember that a computer sex-offender can be any age or sex and the person does not have to fit the caricature of a dirty, un-kept, older man wearing raincoat, to be someone who could harm a child.*

### **What Are The Signs Your Child Could Be At Risk?**

- ⇒ Your child spends large amounts of time on-line, especially at night. Children go on-line to chat with friends, make new friends, pass time, play games and sometimes look for explicit material.
- ⇒ You find pornography on your child's computer. Pornography is often used in the victimization of children. It may be used to convince the child that sexual contact between adults and kids is "normal." Parents should be aware that children may often hide this material on discs or flash drives. This is especially true if the computer is used by many people in the family.
- ⇒ Your child receives phone calls from men you don't know, or is making phone calls-even long distance to numbers you don't recognize. Most offenders eventually want to talk with the child in person on the phone. While a child may be hesitant to give out their phone number, the offenders will often offer their own.

- ⇒ Your child receives mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don't know. As part of the seduction process, it is common for offenders to send letters, photographs, and gifts to their victims. Some have even sent plane tickets for the child to travel across the country to meet them.
- ⇒ Your child turns the computer monitor off or quickly changes the screen when you come into the room.
- ⇒ Your child becomes withdrawn from the family. Offenders will work very hard to drive a wedge between the family and the child. They will accentuate any minor problem at home to pull them over to their side.
- ⇒ Your child is using an on-line account belonging to someone else. Children often meet offenders while on-line at the library or at a friends house.

### **What Should You Do If You Suspect Your Child Is Communicating With A Sexual Predator?**

- ⇒ Consider talking openly with your child about your suspicions. Tell them about the dangers of computer sex offenders.
- ⇒ Review what is on the computer. If you don't know, as a friend, co-worker, relative, or another knowledgeable person.
- ⇒ Use the Caller ID service to determine who is calling your child. Most companies offer a service that allows you to block calls and you can hide a Caller ID box somewhere in the house so they cannot erase the calls. Devices can also be purchased that show phone numbers that have been dialed from within your home.
- ⇒ Monitor your child's access to all types of live electronic communications such as chat rooms, instant messages, cell phones etc.
- ⇒ Should any of your suspicions become reality, contact the Sheriff's Office and the local FBI.

- ⇒ If this situation does occur, keep the computer turned off to preserve any evidence for law enforcement. Do not attempt to copy of the images or text on the computer-let professionals take care this so as not to destroy anything.

### **What Can You Do To Minimize The Chances Of An On-line Predator Victimizing Your Child?**

- ⇒ Communicate with your child about the dangers.
- ⇒ 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 the child's bedroom. Make sure it is always visible to you while the child is using it.
- ⇒ Utilize parental controls provided by your service provider and/or blocking software. Use of chat rooms should be heavily monitored
- ⇒ Always maintain access to your child's on-line account and check it regularly. Be aware your child could be contacted through the US Mail.
- ⇒ Teach your child responsible use of the resources on-line.
- ⇒ Find out what computer safeguards are utilized by your child's school, library, and the homes of their friends.
- ⇒ Understand if your child was a willing participant in any form of sexual exploitation, he/she is not at fault. They are the victim of a cunning offender.
- ⇒ Instruct your children:
  - To never arrange a face-to-face meeting with anyone they met on-line.
  - Never upload pictures of themselves onto the internet. Do not give our personal information.
  - Remind them that whatever they are told on-line may or may not be true. People can be any age or sex and claim to live anywhere.