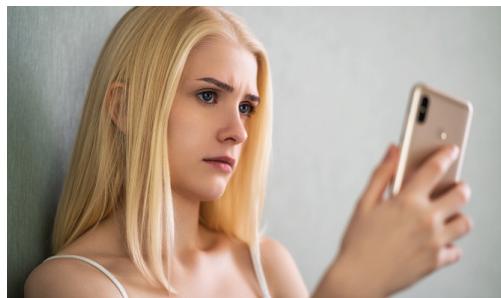### SEXTING

Sexting is sending or distributing nude or partially nude images. Teens who engage in sexting can face embarrassment/humiliation if the photos are shared by the original recipient, bullying or harassment from peers, discipline at school for violation of school policies, criminal charges for child pornography (even if it is a photo they took of themself and forwarded), and long-term difficulties with college admissions or future employment.

Explain to teens that someone who is pressuring them to sext is not a friend or someone they can trust. They should understand that once a photo is taken and sent, it cannot be taken back or erased. They should also never forward a sext someone else sends to them and instead, consider how they would feel if it was a photo of them. Would they want others to forward the image to strangers?

RESOURCES

There are many excellent resources to consult regarding internet safety for children. Here are a few:

- NetSmartz: https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/home
- Common Sense Media: https://www.commonsensemedia.org/
- Federal Trade Commission: https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/protecting-kids-online
- Internet Safety 101: https://internetsafety101.org

CONTACT US:

9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES

352-955-1818 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES

ACSO Important Phone Numbers

ACSO Main Administration	352.367.4000
Crime Prevention Unit	352.374.1800
Crime Stoppers & Gun Bounty	352.372.7867
Dept. of the Jail	352.491.4444
Evidence Section	352.367-4076
Human Resources	352.367.4040
Narcotics Tip Line	352.374.1849
Patrol	352.367.4101
Public Information	352.367.4050
Property Unit	352.367.4078
Records Bureau	352.367.4006
Victim Advocate Unit	352.367.4193

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Sheriff Chad D. Scott

P.O. Box 5489, Gainesville, FL 32627
2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL 32641
https://www.acso.us

FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA
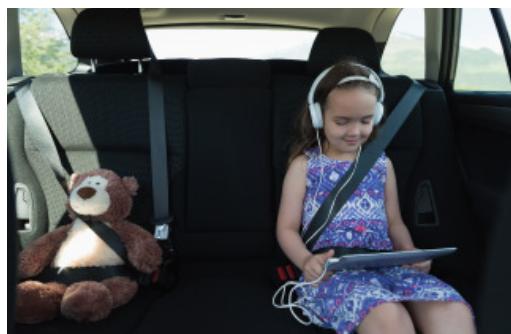@AlachuaSheriff

ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INTERNET SAFETY

INTERNET SAFETY

The internet has infiltrated nearly every part of our daily lives. For the most part, the internet is useful. Lost? Use GPS or Google Maps on your smartphone. Need to know an obscure fact? Google it on your smartphone or laptop. Want to watch a movie? Stream it on Netflix. Need a purchase delivered tomorrow? Buy it on Amazon Prime. Forget books and newspapers, we have instant access to a vast array of knowledge and entertainment right on our phone, tablet, or laptop. Let's not forget social media. Via the many social media apps available, we can connect with friends, family members, and colleagues.

As useful as the internet is; however, it has a dark side. Plenty of thieves and hackers work online to separate unwary adults from their hard-earned money, intellectual property and identities, but scarier still are the predators that target children.

Children are particularly vulnerable to online predators. The problem is compounded because children can access the internet via home computers and laptops, smartphones and tablets, and gaming platforms. Even if parents eliminate all of those devices from their children at home, children can still access the internet at school, the library, or with peers. The only ways to combat this vulnerability is parental involvement and education.

One excellent resource for parents and children regarding internet safety is called Netsmartz, which is a product of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). Netsmartz has guides for adults, as well as specialized material for kids geared towards their particular age group. Netsmartz has games, activities, and videos for kids to watch and learn. NetSmartz can be found at https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/home.

GET INVOLVED - THE BASICS

- Children should not have unfettered access to the internet. Web-connected devices should be located in common areas of the household so a parent can easily see what a child is doing online.
- Talk to your children about privacy and that it is NEVER okay to share personal information online without your permission.
- Establish clear rules for internet access like the types of sites they can access; what, if anything, they can download; who they can talk to, and what hours are "blackout" hours - that is times where children must disconnect and engage in offline activities.
- Remind your children that anything posted on the web is forever. Material can never be removed and may appear anytime, anywhere. Posted material rarely remains solely with the intended recipient. This can have long-term repercussions. More on this later.
- Educate yourself on who your children talk to on the web. A good rule of thumb is that they should not talk to someone online unless they know that person in real life.
- Keep the lines of communication open between you and your child(ren). If your children see something inappropriate or frightening online, they need to know that they can come to you.

- Use parental control settings on digital devices and apps. There are many to choose from, with both free and paid options. You can find a guide at Common Sense Media. You can find them at https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-parental-controls.

CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is the use of electronic communication to bully a person. This can be threatening or intimidating messages or messages or photos designed to humiliate the victim.

Teach your children that cyberbullying, like in-person bullying, is unacceptable behavior. If kids receive threatening or mean messages, they should "Ignore.Block.Tell." (NetSmartz). Ignore hurtful messages, block the sender, and go tell a trusted adult who can help them.

PREDATORS

The internet allows for far more anonymity than other means of communication. Chat rooms, social media apps, and gaming sites do not all permit you to see who you are talking to. A person claiming to be a 14 year-old girl wanting a pen pal could just as easily be a 35 year-old man. Kids should know the warning signs of a potential online predator. Someone who sounds too good to be true, wants to have conversations in private, asks for personal information or photos, or pressures them to meet in real life could very well be a predator and is definitely someone they need to tell you about.