



Dear Virginia Student,

The mission of keeping children safe on the Internet is an effort that is very personal to me as the father of five, and very serious to me as the Attorney General of the Commonwealth. The Internet has emerged as the "new frontier" for law enforcement. It is a tool of incredible promise and opportunity, but at the same time we have seen criminals use it to commit unspeakable acts of violence and depravity. We must discover and implement the solutions that will allow the Internet to remain an engine of economic prosperity and intellectual discovery while at the same time allowing our teens to remain safe and secure as they use it in their daily lives. We have to keep teens safe online. Today's program is a great way to accomplish this critical goal.

Sincerely,

Robert F. "Bob" McDonnell
Attorney General
Commonwealth of Virginia

Fast Facts About Youth and Internet Safety:

- More than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet each week.
- The sexual exploitation of children on the Internet is a \$20 billion industry that continues to expand in the United States and abroad.
- United States Attorney General Alberto Gonzales declared in May 2006, "There are as many as 50,000 predators online trolling for child sex victims at any given time."
- One in five children, 10-17 years old, receive an unwanted sexual solicitation online.
- One in thirty-three children, 10-17 years old, receive an aggressive sexual solicitation.
- One in four 10-17 year olds had an unwanted exposure to pictures of naked people or people having sex.
- Only 25% of youth who encountered a sexual solicitation tell a parent.
- More than 80% of arrested child pornography possessors had images of prepubescent children.
- 20% of images seized from child pornography possessors depict sexual exploitation of babies and 2-3 year-olds.
- In a 2000 study in North Carolina, 71% of convicted child pornography offenders researched admitted molestation of significant numbers of children without detection.
- Between 1996-2005 the number of child exploitation cases investigated by the FBI rose 2026%. There were similar jumps in arrests and an over 1000% jump in convictions.



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Online Tips for Teens:

- ☞ **Never post your personal information, such as a cell phone number, address or the name of your school.**
- ☞ **Be aware that information you give out through instant messages, e-mails, social networking sites and blogs could put you at risk of victimization.**
- ☞ **Never meet in person with anyone you first "met" online. Some people may not be who they say they are.**
- ☞ **Remember that posting information about your friends could put them at risk.**
- ☞ **Never respond to harassing or rude e-mails. Delete any unwanted messages or friends who continuously leave inappropriate comments.**
- ☞ **Never give out your password to anyone other than your parent or guardian.**
- ☞ **Only add people as friends to your site if you know them in real life.**
- ☞ **Think before posting your photos. Personal photos should not have revealing information, such as school names or location.**
- ☞ **Check the privacy settings of the social networking sites that you use.**



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