



The Crime Victims Center
 100 Comac Street
 Ronkonkoma, New York 11779
 (631) 689-2672
www.crimevictimscenter.org
www.parentsformeganslaw.org

The Crime Victims Center is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of sexual abuse through the provision of education, advocacy, victims services, counseling, policy and legislative support services. We are a New York State Certified Rape Crisis Center and also staff the National Megan's Law Helpline

The Crime Victims Center links all innocent victims of violent crime to crime victim compensation and referrals for support services.

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**Call Today To Schedule An Internet
 Safety or Sexual Abuse
 Prevention Program!**

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The Crime Victims Center
Parents for Megan's Law
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Parent's Guide to Internet Safety

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How Vulnerable Are Unmonitored Children and Teens Online?

A survey conducted by the Crimes Against Children Research Center revealed that minors are very vulnerable online:

- One in 5 receive an unwanted sexual solicitation.
- One in 33 experience an aggressive approach where an individual requested a meeting, telephoned or sent regular mail, money or gifts.
- One in 4 had unwanted exposure to explicit pictures.
- Less than 10% of sexual solicitations were reported to police.

What are Children and Teens Most Vulnerable To Online?

Children and Teens are most vulnerable to Cyber sex offenders Online. Cyber sex offenders are Child pornographers, enticers, groomers or travelers.

Child pornography on the Internet is a huge industry. It is estimated that there are over 100,000 child pornography websites capable of bringing in more than 3 billion dollars annually. Children and Teens mistakenly access pornography on the Internet through innocent searches, stealth sites and misleading URL's, through Peer to Peer Technology, through unsolicited emails and Instant Messaging and through Enticers, Groomers and Travelers. The greatest threats to children and teens online are the Online Enticers, Groomers and Travelers. From the safety of their home these sexual predators use the Internet to anonymously and simultaneously prepare numerous children and teens for sexual victimization. These Cybersexoffenders meet their victims and develop relationships through Social Networking sites, Chat Rooms, Gaming Sites and through adults using Online Dating Services.

What You Can Do To Protect Your Children Online

- 1- Keep your child's computer in a high traffic area and never allow your child to have a computer in their bedroom.
- 2- Monitor your child's use of the Internet and get to know the websites they access. If you don't know how to use the computer, ask your child to show you.
- 3- If you allow your child to use Social Networking, blogs or journal websites, be sure to check that their profiles do not include personal information such as their name, photos, sports teams or other identifying information.
- 4- Do not allow your child to download music illegally as they risk being exposed to child and adult pornography files being attached to the music files.
- 5- Share email accounts so you can monitor their emails.
- 6- Set parental controls which are typically available through your Internet service providers or purchase Internet filtering software.
- 7- Report inappropriate emails or instant messages to your internet provider or law enforcement authorities.
- 8- Contact law enforcement authorities immediately if your child is sent child pornography.

What To Say To Your Children and Teens To Stay Safe

- 1- Never give out personal information.
Personal information means any information that might help someone find out who your child is and includes your child's name, address, phone number, instant messaging address, cell phone number, parents'/guardians names, the name of the school they attend, the name of the sport teams they play on, the name of the sport fields they play on, their friends' names or any other information that someone can use to figure out who they are. Even the most simple answer to a question might be information someone is using to eventually target your child. Sexual predators have found a preying ground on the Internet and your child must be made aware of the danger.
- 2- Never meet anyone in person you have met online without checking with a parent/guardian.
- 3- Never download music or videos files illegally.
- 4- Never send anyone your photo or your school photo without checking first with a parent/guardian.
- 5- Always report to the website moderator and tell a parent/guardian if you receive any emails, messages, pics or videos that include inappropriate language or photographs or anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.