

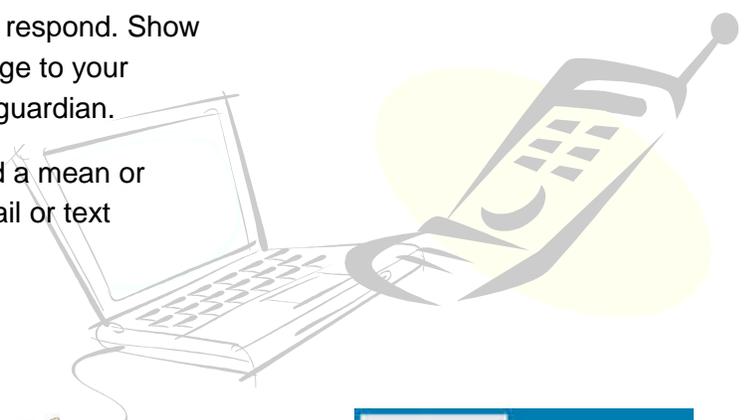


# Kids: Online Safety Tips

**Going online can open up doors to discovery, adventures, and games. But it can be just as risky as crossing a busy street. It's important to make your time online the wonderful experience it's supposed to be, and you can do just that by following the tips that are listed below—and that you should know by heart! As always, you should talk with your parents or a trusted adult if you have questions about these tips or anything else.**

- \* Tell your parents or guardian if you see something that makes you uncomfortable.
- \* Let your parents know who you talk to online.
- \* Never give out your full name or address.
- \* Never give out the name of your school or tell anyone the address.
- \* Talk with your parents about the dangers of meeting new friends online.
- \* Ask your parents for their permission before you buy anything online or sign up for anything.
- \* If you download music or movie files onto your computer, don't steal. Check out the rules of pay-per-download services.
- \* Don't use your computer or cell phone to bully anyone.
- \* If someone sends you an email or text message that is saying mean things about you or someone else, don't respond. Show the message to your parent or guardian.
- \* Don't forward a mean or vulgar email or text message.
- \* Don't send an email or message from your camera phone that contains a picture of someone else, especially a picture they might not like, without that person's permission.

***Above all, make sure you talk with your parents about any question you might have about what's right or wrong about your Internet or cell phone use. Your cyber safety is a family affair!***



**CTIA The Wireless Foundation**

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202-736-3257—[www.wirelessfoundation.org](http://www.wirelessfoundation.org)

**Steven L. Durfor, Sheriff-Coroner**  
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215 5th Street, Suite 150, Marysville, CA  
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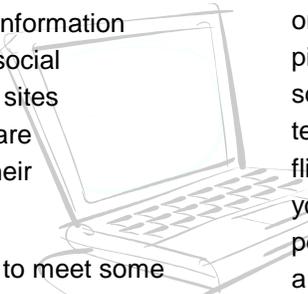
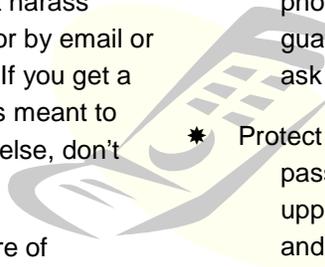


# Teens: Online Safety Tips

Internet and Cell Phone Safety: It's a Teen's World

***There's a world to explore. You may like honing your talents at school and achieving your best grades, but you also know that adventures await and there are many new things to discover. You can begin your explorations on the Internet, but it presents risks as well as opportunities. The same is true of all the new electronic wireless devices that everyone seems to carry. The tips below are good ones to follow, and they can be a springboard for talking with parents, teachers, and school counselors if you ever need more information or face a dilemma about your Internet or wireless use.***

- \* Don't open files from strangers.
- \* Protect your personal information online, on your cell phone, or in social networking sites unless it's information you're comfortable with sharing with all the world.
- \* Remember, potential employers and college admissions officers search for information on you on social networking sites while they are weighing their decisions.
- \* Never arrange to meet someone in person you have talked to online. Stick to the friends you know.
- \* Don't open emails from someone you know is a bully. And don't harass anyone online or by email or text message. If you get a message that is meant to bully someone else, don't forward it.
- \* Don't send a picture of someone else by email or text message without their prior permission.
- \* Never send anyone a revealing or other inappropriate pictures of yourself or someone else by Internet or text message, even just to flirt. Depending on your age, you could be charged under pornography laws with being a sex offender with a police record that will last for life.
- \* If you are being bullied or harassed, whether by text message or photo, tell a parent or your guardian. You're never too old to ask for help.
- \* Protect your computer with a password—one that contains uppercase and lowercase letters and numbers. Make them hard to figure out. Don't tell anyone your password, not even your friends.
- \* If someone sends a mean or threatening message, don't respond. Save it or print it out and show it to an adult.
- \* Learn what a firewall is and how it can protect your computer.
- \* Keep your antivirus and anti-spamware software up to date.



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# Parents: Online Safety

**PARENTS: Add Online Safety to the List**

- \* Talk with your children about the benefits and risks of Internet and wireless phone use.
- \* Ask your children what they do online, what games they play, and what websites they visit. Make sure they aren't playing violent video games.
- \* Go online with your children. Have them show you what they do online.
- \* Make a list of any websites you find that your think your children will enjoy, and share the list with them.
- \* Make a list of any websites you think are inappropriate, and tell your children not to visit them or purchase parental control software from a commercial vendor.
- \* Agree with your children on rules about what they can and cannot do online, when they can go on the Internet, and how long they can stay.
- \* Keep the computer in a central area of the house where you can observe your child's behavior.
- \* Agree to a contract for family cell phone use with your child.
- \* Ask your children who they visit online and who they email or text.
- \* Set limits on how many messages or how much money children can spend on their wireless use each month.
- \* Tell your children never to give out personal information, such as their real names, school names, or their home or school addresses.
- \* Tell your children never to agree to meet online acquaintances in person.
- \* Tell your children never to harass anyone online.
- \* Being bullied online or in a text message is serious; make sure your children know they can come to you for help if this happens to them.
- \* Tell your children never to send a picture of someone to an other person by email or text message without the prior permission of that person.
- \* Make sure your children know that if they feel uncomfortable with some thing they receive online or by text message, or that they are in trouble because of something that happened online, that they can come to you for help. Remember, your children may need help, and penalties such as removing the computer or restricting access to a wireless device can be counterproductive. If your children come to you, listen to them and don't judge them.



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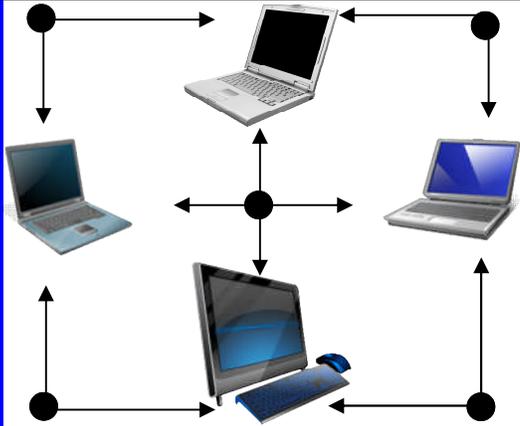
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**Yuba County Sheriff's Department**  
**"Building a Safe Community"**

# Safe Social Networking

Social Butterflies



**You've heard their names before: MySpace, Facebook, Friendster, Xanga, Twitter. They're all forms of social media where people go online to chat with their friends, make new friends, and exchange information. Social networking sites are easy to use and understand. Their purpose is to bring people closer together. They let users create personal profiles, add photos, write in a public journal or blog, send messages to others, and invite people to become their online friends—all with just a few clicks of the mouse. When used responsibly, these sites present wonderful social opportunities.**

*You can stay safe by following the tips below.*

- \* Some social networking sites require that users be at least 13 years of age, and sometimes even 18, to create an account. Don't pretend you're older than you really are. That day will come soon enough!
- \* Be careful about posting your current location or your upcoming plans. You may not want everyone in your network to have that information.
- \* Don't post any identifying information on a social website. This includes your full name, your phone number, and your address.
- \* Be careful of any links that ask you to post your social network information on an outside site. These sites are often created by scammers looking to steal your account and scam your friends in your name.

- \* Investigate and understand the privacy options of the social network you intend to use or are using, and make sure they work the way you think they do.
- \* Most social networking websites let users set their profiles to private so that only their friends—usually defined as people that know their full name or email address—can contact them. Make sure your profile is set to private.
- \* Just because you are using privacy settings, you should still be careful with your personal or financial information; you can't be sure with whom your friends might share the information.
- \* Don't accept requests or messages from people you don't know. They might be scam artists.
- \* Never post pictures of a sexual nature of yourself or someone else online.

- \* Be aware that online information lives forever. Be careful about what you post. College admissions personnel and job recruiters often check out personal information on social websites while weighing their decisions. One day, this will be very important.
- \* Some people you may meet in social websites may not be who they say they are. They may pretend to be someone else. You should never meet face-to-face with someone you've met online.
- \* Never give out your password to anyone but your parent or guardian. If you see something that makes you feel uncomfortable, tell your parent or guardian right away. Likewise, tell them if anything happens online that hurts or scares you.

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