Newsletter

SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE SERVICES
SAFEGUARDING ALL OF GOD'S FAMILY

PROMISE TO
Protect
PLEDGE TO *Heal*

Dear Friends,

The internet has profoundly changed our access to information and the way in which we communicate. Familiarity with this technology is the key to our children's success in school and in the future. Although on-line exploration can open a world of wonderful information for our children, it can also expose them to harm.

We may not be able to keep up with changing advances in technology, but we can learn about some of the pitfalls as our children hit the road, exploring the information highway.

Children may not understand the risks, but parents and others can become familiar with a range of available options to protect their children on-line.

Listed in this newsletter are some tips from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Parent Guide to Internet Safety, for more information go to www.fbi.gov Our hope is that this information will assist in keeping our children's on-line experience educational, fun and most of all safe.

Amy Peterson
Victim Assistance Coordinator
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

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

- Communicate, and talk to your child about sexual victimization and potential on-line danger

- Keep the computer in a common room in the house, not in your child's bedroom. It is much more difficult for a computer-sex offender to communicate with a child when the computer screen is visible to a parent or another member of the household.

- Spend time with your children on-line. Have them teach you about their favorite on-line destinations.

- Find out what computer safeguards are utilized by your child's school, the public library, and at the homes of your child's friends. These are all places, outside your normal supervision, where your child could encounter an on-line predator.

- Understand, even if your child was a willing participant in any form of sexual exploitation that he/she is not at fault and is the victim. The offender always bears the complete responsibility for his or her actions.

- Instruct your children:

  - to never give out identifying information such as their name, home address, school name, or telephone number;

  - to never download images from an unknown source, as there is a good chance there could be sexually explicit images;

  - that whatever they are told on-line, may or may not be true;

  - to never upload (post) pictures of themselves onto the Internet on-line service to people they do not personally know.

What Are Signs That Your Child Might Be At Risk?

- Your child spends large amounts of time on-line, especially at night.
- You find pornography on your child's computer.
- Your child receives phone calls from men you don't know or is making calls, sometimes long distance, to numbers you don't recognize.
- Your child receives mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don't know.
- Your child turns the computer monitor off or quickly changes the screen on the monitor when you come into the room.
- Your child becomes withdrawn from the family.
- Your child is using an on-line account belonging to someone else.

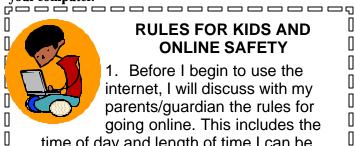## Acronyms and Other Internet Shorthand

Following is a selection of acronyms and internet shorthand parents and adults may want to be aware of.

For more internet acronyms go to: www.netlingo.com

2NITE - Tonight

ADR - Address

AEAP - As Early As Possible

ALAP - As Late As Possible

ASL - Age/Sex/Location

B4YKI - Before You Know It

F2F - Face To Face

HAK - Hugs And Kisses

KFY - Kiss For You

KPC - Keeping Parents Clueless

LMIRL - Let's Meet In Real Life

MorF - Male or Female

MOOS - Member of the Opposite Sex

NAZ - Name, Address, Zip

NALOPKT - Not A Lot Of People Know That

OTP - On The Phone

P911 - Parent Alert

PAL - Parents Are Listening

PAW - Parents Are Watching

PIR - Parents In Room

POS - Parents Over Shoulder

SorG - Straight or Gay

SMIM - Send Me An Instant Message

WUF - Where Are You From

WYCM - Will You Call Me

WYRN - What's Your Real Name

A copy of this Newsletter can be found on the Archdiocese of Milwaukee website www.archmil.org under Resources.

Cut this section out to share with your children and keep by your computer.

RULES FOR KIDS AND ONLINE SAFETY

1. Before I begin to use the internet, I will discuss with my parents/guardian the rules for going online. This includes the time of day and length of time I can be online.

2. I will not give out personal information. This includes my address, telephone number, the name and location of my school.

3. I will tell my parents/guardian or other trusted adult if I read or see any messages that make me feel uncomfortable.

4. I will never give a description of what I look like or send a picture of myself over the internet.

5. I will never get together with anyone I "meet" on the internet. I will tell my parents/guardian immediately if someone suggests this.

6. I will not give out my internet password to anyone other than my parent/guardian.

7. I will not do or say anything online that would hurt other s or is against the law.

8. I will include my parents when I am on the internet so that we can all have fun and learn new things.

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