

Instruct your children:

- Never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they met on-line.
- Never upload pictures of themselves onto the internet or on-line service to people they do not personally know.
- Never give out identifying information such as their name, home address, school name, or telephone number.
- Never download pictures from an unknown source.
- Never respond to messages or bulletin board postings that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, or harassing.
- Whatever they are told on-line may or may not be true.

For more information about internet safety contact:

Sergeant Daniel Ball
or
Officer James Ghrist
at
(219) 836-6600

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Office of Crimes Against
Children
(202) 324-3666



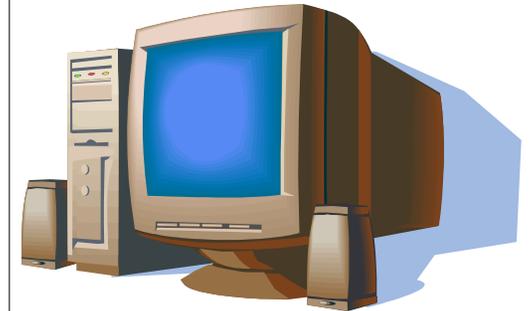
Munster Police Department
1001 Ridge Road
Munster, Indiana

Phone: 219-836-6600
FAX: 219-836-8134



Munster Police Department

Internet Safety



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Signs that your child might be at risk

- You 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.
- You child received mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don't know.
- You child turns the computer monitor off or quickly changes the screen on the monitor when you come into the room.
- You child becomes withdrawn from the family.
- You child is using an on-line account belonging to someone else.



What to do if you suspect your child is communicating with a sexual predator on-line.

- Consider talking openly with your child about your suspicions. Tell them about the dangers of computer-sex offenders.
- Review what is on your child's computer.
- Use the caller ID service to determine who is calling your child.
- Devices can be purchased that show telephone numbers that have been dialed from your home phone.
- Monitor you child's access to all types of live electronic communications and monitor your child's e-mail.
- Should any of the following situations arise in your household, you should immediately contact the Munster Police Department:
 - Your child or anyone in the household has received child pornography.
 - Your child has been sexually solicited by someone who knows that your child is under 18 years of age.
 - Your child has received sexually explicit images from someone that knows your child is under the age of 18.



What can you do?

- Communicate, and talk to your child about sexual victimization and potential on-line danger.
- Spend time with your children on-line.
- Keep the computer in a common room in the house, not in your child's bedroom.
- Utilize parental controls provided by your service provider and /or blocking software.
- Always maintain access to your child's on-line account and randomly check his/her e-mail.
- Teach you child the responsible use of the resources on-line.
- Find out what computer safeguards are utilized by your child's school, the public library, and at the homes of your child's friends.
- Understand, even if you child was a willing participant in any form of sexual exploitation, that he/she is not at fault.