



Helpful Websites

- www.rcsd.net
- www.sckids.org
- www.SLED.SC.gov
- www.nap.edu/netsafekids
- www.wiredsafety.org
- www.Isafe.org
- www.safekids.com
- www.ikeepsafe.org
- www.missingkids.com
- <http://www.dateline.msnbc.com>
- www.richlandcountymaps.com

US Dept of Justice National Sex Offender Public Registry: www.nsopr.gov



Richland County Sheriff's Department
5623 Two Notch Road
Columbia, SC 29223
Phone: (803) 576-3000
www.rcsd.net



Internet Safety



Building Unity in the Community

Teen Chat Decoder

Are you safe to chat?

Teens often use acronyms as a kind of shorthand for text messages, teen lingo and slang to hide inappropriate behavior from parents prying eyes. Below is a partial list of acronyms that are used by young people today. Some will surprise you!

121	One to One		really popular, or hot.
AFK	Away From Keyboard	P911	My parents are in the room. P=Parents, and 911=emergency; in other words, either drop the subject or watch the language.
AITR	Adult In The Room	PAW	Parents Are Watching
ASL(RP)	Age Sex Location (Race / Picture)	PIR	Parent In Room
BAK	Back At Keyboard (I'm back)	PLOS	Parents Looking Over Shoulder (also POS=Parents are looking Over my Shoulder, POTS=Parents Over The Shoulder - (My parents are watching; I can't really talk)
BF	Boyfriend (also shown as bf or b/f)	PRW	Parents Are Watching
BRB	Be Right Back	rl or RL	Real Life (as opposed to being online)
CD9	Code 9 (means parents are around)	RSN	Real Soon Now
CUOL	See You On Line	S2R	Send To Receive (pictures)
DIKU	Do I Know You?	SPST	Same Place, Same Time
E or X	Ecstasy (the drug)	SYL	See You Later
F2F	Face To Face	TDTM	Talk Dirty To Me
GF	Girlfriend (also shown as gf or g/f)	TNT	'Til Next Time
GGOH	Gotta Get Outta Here	TOS	Teacher Over Shoulder
GNOC	Get Naked on Cam (web cam)	TTYL	Talk To You Later
H&K	Hugs and Kisses	WFM	Works For Me
IPN	I'm Posting Naked	WTGP?	Want To Go Private? (move to a private chat room)
KIT	Keep In Touch		
LMIR	Let's Meet In Real Life (also MIRL)		
LOL	Laughing Out Loud		
MOS	Mom Over Shoulder		
NIFOC	Naked In Front Of Computer		
NP	Nosey Parents		
OTH	Off The Hook: Something is		



In today's world, the Internet is part of our way of life. It is a powerful tool, but it can be dangerous. We must protect ourselves and especially our children.

At every age, children require protection and guidance. With Internet access so readily available at home, school and the local library, parents must be extra vigilant to know what is happening in their children's lives on the Internet and off. I am committed to helping you and ask that you talk with your children about protecting themselves and about the predators that are out there.

The Richland County Sheriff's Department can provide you with additional information on protecting your children. Please call us at (803) 576-3118 or go to our Web site at www.rcsd.net—our Web site has child friendly links and safety information for citizens of all ages.

Leon Lott

What Children Need to Know about Internet Safety

- Do not give out personal information such as your address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' permission.
- Tell your parents right away if you come across any information that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- Never agree to get together with someone you "meet" online without first checking with your parents. If your parents agree to the meeting, make sure that it is in a public place and bring your mother or father along.
- Never send a person your picture or anything else without first checking with your parents.
- Do not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make you feel uncomfortable. If you do, tell your parents right away so that they can contact the service provider.
- Do not give out your Internet password to anyone (even your best friends) other than your parents.
- Check with your parents before downloading or installing software or doing anything that could possibly hurt your computer or jeopardize your family's privacy.

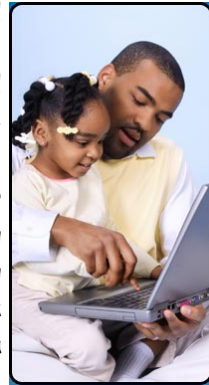


For Parents: Internet Safety



What Parents Need to Know about Internet Safety

- Use filtering or parental control technologies. Block everything that is not pre-approved rather than just filtering out the "bad" sites.
- Bookmark their favorite Web sites so they will not mistype them and end up at a "bad" site.
- Use kid-sized search engines.
- Limit their online time.
- Check with their teachers often for suggested Web sites and for recommendations for good resources online.
- Sit down with your children as often as possible and find out where they go online, what they like, and ask or answer any questions.
- Tell them to get your permission before posting any content, including profiles and blogs, to a Web site or sending it via email or IM.
- Make sure only pre-approved senders can send your child an IM.
- Use a pop-up blocker or toolbar, an antivirus program, and a spyware remover.
- Make sure that your children understand



what information can and can't be shared online with anyone. **Think before you post!**

- Make sure they can't share pictures online, set up profiles or blogs or webcams without your approval.
- Google their name, screen names, address, and telephone numbers at least once a week. Many kids post nasty things about others.



The 4 R's of the Internet

- Recognize** - deceptive ways
- Refuse** - to give personal info
- Respond** - assertively
- Report** - dangerous contact

Tips

1. Keep your profile anonymous.
2. Guard personal information.
3. **Make your username generic.**
4. Don't open email from strangers.
5. Don't post your picture. Your friends already know what you look like.
6. Stay clear of inappropriate sites.
7. People are not always who they say they are.

