

District Attorney Conley's Internet Safety Initiative

One of District Attorney Daniel F. Conley's top priorities is the protection of children. District Attorney Conley has taken a progressive approach to protecting children online.

► June 2003 - District Attorney Conley launches a an interactive Internet Safety training program in the schools of Suffolk County. To host this training, please contact the District Attorney's Office.

► Fall 2003 - The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office becomes a member of the Department of Justice's Internet Crimes Against Children initiative. The Office remains an integral part of the Massachusetts ICAC Task Force today.

► June 2004 - District Attorney Conley launches the new Internet site for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, including a number of pages dedicated to Internet Safety. (See contact information for the address of the Internet site).

► October 2004 - District Attorney Conley creates the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Computer Crime Division. (Pictured below).

► March 2006 - The Computer Crime Division is integrated with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office's Family Protection and Sexual Assault Unit and Child Abuse Team.



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you believe your child has received illegal or offensive material on the Internet, you should report it to your local police department and your Internet Service Provider. Whenever possible, keep the computer on and keep everyone away from it until you have discussed the issue with an authority.

In the event of an emergency situation, dial 911.

If you would like more information on Internet safety, visit these Internet sites:

Suffolk County District Attorney's Office
http://www.mass.gov/da/suffolk/internet_safety.html

NetSmartz
<http://www.netsmartz.org>



Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Main Line
617.619.4000

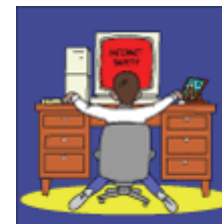
Computer Crime Division
617.619.4321

Child Abuse Team
617.619.4300

Children's Advocacy Center
617.779.2146

TTY Line
617.619.4333

Internet Safety



*A Guide for Parents and
Students on Safe Internet
Navigation*

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Internet Safety Tips for Students

- ▶ Always follow the rules that your parents or teachers set for your Internet use.
- ▶ Do not use personal information to set up electronic mail or instant message accounts.
- ▶ Do not give out personal information such as your name, address, phone number or school name at any time.
- ▶ Do not create an online profile. (This information is public and can be used to locate you, your family, and your friends).
- ▶ Keep your passwords private. Do not give them to anyone besides your parents.
- ▶ Do not share files with anyone you do not know.
- ▶ Always delete unknown e-mail attachments without opening them. Attachments can contain viruses that might damage your computer or other programs designed to steal information about you.
- ▶ Do not respond to any messages that are mean or illegal or that make you feel uncomfortable. Leave the computer the way it is and tell an adult!
- ▶ Never agree to meet anyone that contacts you on the Internet. Speak to your parents if anyone you meet online ever asks you to meet with them in person. If a friend is in trouble, speak to an adult!
- ▶ Remember that the Web is not private. Engaging in an offensive, harassing, threatening, or illegal manner might get you in trouble with parents, your school, or the police
- ▶ Do not forget that people online may not be who they seem. It is easy for a person to pretend to be someone else.

Internet Safety Tips for Parents

It is important for you as a parent to establish rules for your child's Internet use. Consider the use of a contract to set the rules your child must adhere to while online. A sample can be found on our website. Always look for warning signs, and speak to your children about all of their online activities.

In 2004, researchers at the Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire completed a study of online child sexual abuse. The results of the study are based upon actual online child sexual abuse case statistics reported to researchers by law enforcement agencies across the country. The study may help parents, educators, and law enforcement understand, and develop new methods to prevent, the online sexual victimization of children. The *American Psychological Association's* press release about this study can be found here:

http://www.apa.org/releases/online_sexabuse.html

Potential Risks to Your Child on the Internet

- ▶ Invitation to meet after an online conversation.
- ▶ Posting personal information on personal profiles that exposes your child or family to predators.
- ▶ Rude, obnoxious, malicious and other inappropriate behavior or communications.
- ▶ Receipt of threatening, intimidating or harassing communications.
- ▶ Viewing inappropriate materials.
- ▶ Opening or receiving illegal files or communications that cause property destruction or identity theft.
- ▶ Engaging in rude, offensive, or illegal behavior that can lead to disciplinary actions or criminal penalties.

Internet Safety Tips for Parents

The Warning Signs

- ▶ Your child is using an account that belongs to someone else.
- ▶ Your child is withdrawing from the family.
- ▶ Your child is spending a lot of time online, especially at night.
- ▶ Your child is turning off the monitor or minimizing the screen quickly when someone enters the room.
- ▶ You find pornography on your child's computer.
- ▶ Your child receives packages, mail, gifts, and/or phone calls from people you don't know.

Measures of Prevention

- ▶ Keep your computer in a common area of your home.
- ▶ Monitor all of your child's online activities.
- ▶ Look for a "family-friendly" online service provider and appropriate monitoring or filtering software.
- ▶ Have rules for your child's Internet use. Consider entering a contract to make the rules clear and enforceable.
- ▶ Learn about the different parental control tools, protective software, and controlled access options that are available.
- ▶ Teach your child to never reveal personal information to any person they meet online.