



CITY OF CORNING

KIDS & CYBERSPACE INTERNET SAFETY

Whatever your age, the internet is a great place to hang out. It's not only fun, but it lets you keep in touch with friends and family and provides an enormous amount of information. There are lots of great educational sites as well as places to keep up with your favorite sport, hobbies, music and much more.

If you're a teen, we probably don't need to sell you on the benefits of the internet. Many of you know far more than your parents or even teachers about the wonders of cyberspace. If you're a parent, talk to your kids about "the Net"; and, if you need to learn more, see if they can help you. Either way, it's important for teens and parents to share knowledge. You have something to learn from each other -- if not about the internet, then about life in general, how to make good decisions, and how to look at information critically.

Cyberspace is like a big city. There are libraries, universities, museums, places to have fun, and plenty of opportunities to meet wonderful people from all walks of life. But, like any community, there are also some people and areas that you ought to avoid, and others that you should approach only with caution.

By knowing the dangers and how to avoid them, you can take advantage of all the positive aspects of the internet while avoiding most of its pitfalls.

GENERAL RISKS:

Situations and behavior that make you feel uncomfortable

Putting yourself in physical danger

Giving up privacy or putting yourself or your family in financial risk

Harassment

Hurting others and getting into trouble

CHAT ROOMS:

Chat rooms let you engage in a live conversation with people around the block or around the world. It's like being on a party line only you type instead of talk. Everyone in the "chat room" can see everything you type. The types of chat rooms vary depending on the service you're using. Some chat rooms are just open conversations. Everyone has a pretty much equal role. Some rooms are moderated where there is a "speaker" who is leading the discussion and participants. Some rooms have chaperons or monitors who are responsible for maintaining order, but even in some of these rooms what you type is displayed immediately.

The monitor can kick someone out of the room who is acting in an inappropriate manner, but he or she may be able to act only after the fact. The monitor can't, however, prevent you from going off to a private chat area with a person who might do you harm or typing information that could put you in danger.

NEW YORK STATE INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE:

Through use of funding provided by the U. S. Department of Justice, the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), the NYS Police and the NYS Attorney General's Office have established a formal partnership dedicated to combating internet crimes against children. This partnership is known as the New York State Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

NYS ICAC Task Force responsibilities include: Fostering through and well-coordinated investigations, establishing a statewide educational initiative for law enforcement and the public, and prosecuting or assisting with the prosecution of offenders.

THE NYS ICAC TASK FORCE CYBER TIPLINES:

1-877-474-KIDS

<http://www.troopers.state.ny.us/ICAC/ICACINDEX.html> were created for individuals to report incidents of child-sexual exploitation including:

- Possession, manufacture and distribution of child pornography.
- Online enticement of children for sexual acts.
- Child prostitution.
- Child-sex tourism.
- Child-sexual molestation (not in the family).

If you believe that you have encountered illegal activity on the Internet, a complaint can be filed with the New York State Police via the NYS ICAC Task Force Cyber Tiplines.

KIDS' RULES FOR ONLINE SAFETY

I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' permission.

I will tell my parent right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.

I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father along.

I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.

I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do,

I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the online service.

I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online.

We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.