

# Ensuring Online Safety and Preventing Grooming for Kids and Teens

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## **TARGETING THE VICTIM**

The offender targets a victim by sizing up the child's vulnerability (emotional neediness, isolation and lower self-confidence). Children with less parental oversight are more desirable prey.

## **GAINING THE VICTIMS TRUST**

The sex offender gains trust by watching and gathering information about the child, getting to know their needs and how to fill them. In this regard, many sex offenders mix effortlessly with responsible caretakers because they generate warm and calibrated attention.




## **FILLING A NEED**

Once the sex offender begins to fill the child's needs, that adult may assume noticeably more importance in the child's life.

## **ISOLATING THE CHILD**

The grooming sex offender uses the developing special relationship with the child to create situations in which they are alone together.






## **SEXUALIZING THE RELATIONSHIP**

The adult exploits a child's natural curiosity, using feelings of stimulation to advance the sexuality of the relationship. This can occur through talking, use of pornography, or creating situations like bathing or swimming to increase curiosity.

## **MAINTAINING CONTROL**

Once the sex abuse is occurring, offenders commonly use secrecy and blame to maintain the child's continued participation and silence.





# PREDATORS POSE AS CHILDREN ONLINE.



Do parents know who your kids  
are talking to online?



## **BE AWARE:**

Parents may unwittingly feed into this relationship through their own appreciation for the unique relationship.



# The Vulnerability of Children and Teens



## 75% OF CHILDREN

are willing to exchange personal information about themselves or their family over the internet.

## MORE THAN ONE OUT OF EVERY 10 TEENS

has posted a nude or semi-nude picture of themselves or others online.

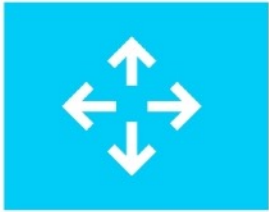
## ONE IN FIVE GIRLS

is sexually exploited (raped, abused, assaulted) before they reach 18 years old.

## ONE IN SIX BOYS

is sexually abused before they reach the age of 16.

**PREDATORS  
TODAY ARE  
MORE:**



Transient



Sophisticated



Brutal



They target and  
attack our most  
precious assets

**THERE IS NO MORE  
URGENT CRISES THAN  
THE ABDUCTION OF A  
CHILD.**

YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM BEING ABDUCTED AND  
VICTIMIZED, EVEN FROM WITHIN THEIR OWN HOME.



# GROOMING A CHILD FOR SEX

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Grooming is the process by which an offender draws a victim into a sexual relationship and maintains that relationship in secrecy.

**The shrouding of the relationship in secrecy is an essential feature of grooming.**

## **GROOMING BY SEX OFFENDERS**

is a gradual, calculated process.

## **PREDATORS CAN BE**

family members, neighbors, persons in authority, boyfriends, strangers to the family or pimps



# THE AFFECTION LURE IS THE MOST COMMON LURE USED BY CHILD PREDATORS



MOST VICTIMS OF ABUSE ARE "GROOMED" OVER A PERIOD OF WEEKS, MONTHS OR YEARS. THE AFFECTION LURE IS USED BOTH ONLINE AND OFFLINE TO SEDUCE UNSUSPECTING YOUNGSTERS IN NEED OF LOVE AND ATTENTION.

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**Predators target  
kids who have  
(or are):**

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LOW SELF ESTEEM



DYSFUNCTIONAL  
HOME LIFE



RUNAWAYS

SEXUALLY ACTIVE

# ONLINE DANGERS CAN LEAD TO:



CHILD  
PORNOGRAPHY

ABDUCTION

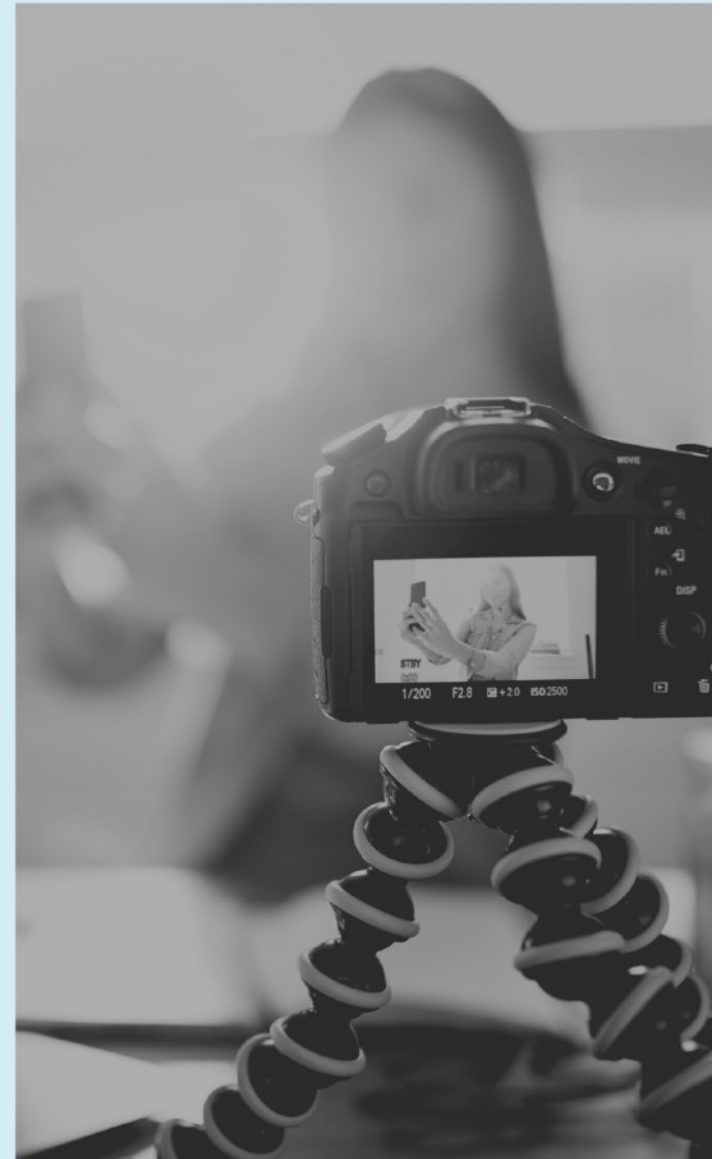
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING

SEXTING

CYBER BULLYING

# CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Images created through child pornography live forever on the internet. They create a lifetime of victimization.



## FOLLOW THE \$

Child pornography is a multi-billion dollar industry.

## USED BY SEX OFFENDERS

as part of grooming process.

## VICTIMIZATION

is for life. Every image is one that may "never end" in circulation.

## MORE THAN 20,000

child pornographic images are uploaded every week. (In April 2020 alone, reports have doubled from the previous year).

## IMAGES ARE A VISUAL RECORD

of a child being victimized. These records are then traded thousands of times (or more) around the world.

## IMPOSSIBLE TO ERASE

every single image out there, which means these children are victimized by pornography viewers forever.

# VICTIM CHARACTER -ISTICS

## MOST VICTIMIZED MEMBERS:

Girls ages 11-14

Boys ages six to nine

## SOLICITED ONLINE:

Girls ages 14-17 are most likely to be solicited online

## UNWANTED SEXUAL MATERIAL:

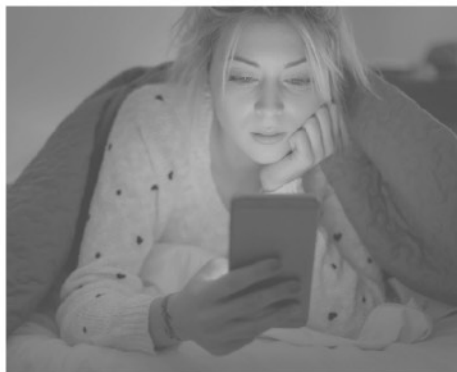
Boys ages 14-17 are most likely to experience unwanted exposure to sexual material

## ONLINE HARASSMENT:

Girls ages 14-17 are most likely to experience online harassment

# Ways kids are victimized online:

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SEXTING



SEXTORTION



CYBER BULLYING

# ONLINE GATEWAYS TO YOUR CHILD

TEEN SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

CHAT ROOMS

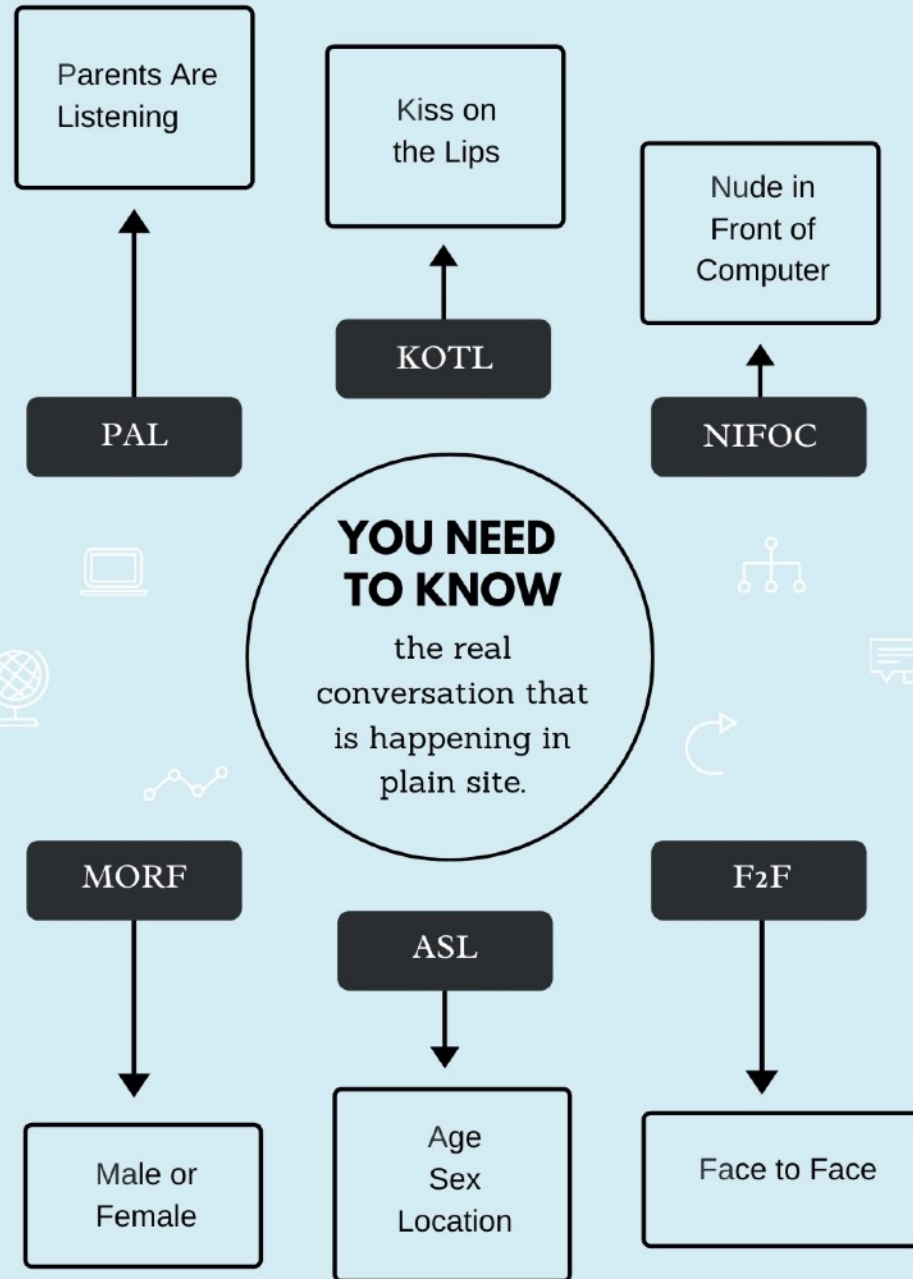
TEXTING APPS

DATING/SEXTING APPS

PRIVATE VAULT APPS



# Learn Common Acronyms:



## ADDITIONAL ACRONYMS

420: Marijuana

MOS: Mom Over Shoulder

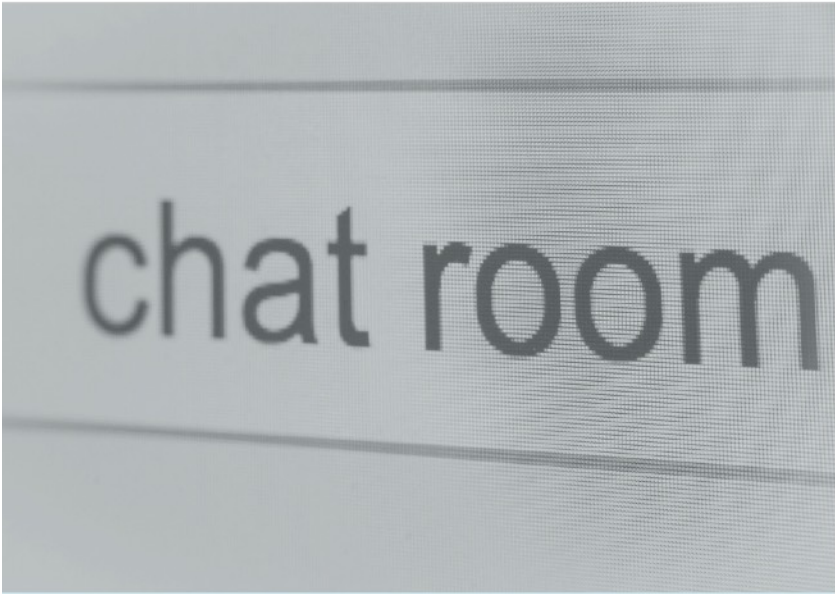
WUCM: Will You Call Me

WYRN: What's Your Real Name

BTW: By The Way

GNOC: Get Naked on Cam

LMIRL: Let's Meet in Real Life



chat room

# CHAT ROOMS

**The success of most chat rooms is clearly about pushing the limits.**

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## **SECRECY IS KEY**

Chat rooms thrive on secrecy. It allows for barriers to break down and also instills the feeling of thrill or shame which can create reasons to not report inappropriate activity.

## **THE DEAL IS SET...**

Chat rooms focus on the implicit "I'll-show-you-mine-if-you-show-me-yours" deal.

# What is Sexting?

SEXTING IS THE SENDING OF SEXUALLY EXPLICIT DIGITAL IMAGES, VIDEOS, TEXT MESSAGES, OR EMAILS, USUALLY BY CELL PHONE.



## TWO ROMANTIC PARTNERS

Sexting can be the exchange of texts, emails, or images solely between two romantic partners.

## OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE

Sexting can be texts, emails, or images initially exchanged between partners that are then shared with others outside the relationship.

## INTERESTED PARTIES

Sexting can be information or images exchanged between people who are not yet in a relationship but may hope to be.

Kids begin sexting due to peer pressure, flirtation, feeling left out, or when they are exploring sexuality, because they think it is "normal", etc.

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# PREDATORS

LURK IN CHAT ROOMS AND RECORD YOUNG PEOPLE WHO POST OR LIVE-STREAM SEXUALLY EXPLICIT IMAGES AND VIDEOS OF THEMSELVES. OR THEY MAY HACK INTO YOUR ELECTRONIC DEVICES USING MALWARE TO GAIN ACCESS TO YOUR CHILD'S FILES AND CONTROL THE WEB CAMERA AND MICROPHONE WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING IT.

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IT IS LIKELY THE PERPETRATOR IS AN

**ADULT**

PRETENDING TO BE A TEENAGER. AND YOUR CHILD IS JUST ONE OF MANY VICTIMS BEING TARGETED BY THE SAME PERSON.



# SEXTORTION IS A CRIME

The FBI has called sextortion the single-largest growing threat to children on the internet. When using sextortion, predators use sexually explicit images as blackmail and demand sex or more images instead of money.

Sextortion is a serious crime that occurs when someone threatens to distribute your private and sensitive material if you don't provide them images of a sexual nature, sexual favors, or money.

The perpetrator may also threaten to harm your friends or relatives by using information they have obtained from your (or your child's) electronic device unless you comply with their demands.

**PREDATORS  
KNOW HOW  
TO  
CONTROL  
KIDS AND  
TEENS.**



# **SEXTORTION IS EMBARRASSING AND CONTROLLING.**

A MAJOR ISSUE WITH SEXUAL  
EXTORTION IS THAT IT IS  
UNCOMFORTABLE FOR MINORS TO  
TELL ANYONE WHEN THEY ARE  
BEING SEXUALLY BLACKMAILED. THIS  
MAKES SEXTORTION INSIDIOUS, AND  
SOMETIMES FATAL.

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We must strive to talk about and take  
away the shame of someone using  
sextortion against us so our kids will  
ask us for help if anything happens.

# Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets. Cyberbullying can occur through SMS, Text, and apps, or online in social media, forums, or gaming where people can view, participate in, or share content.

Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else. It can include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation. Some cyberbullying crosses the line into unlawful or criminal behavior.

([stopbullying.gov](http://stopbullying.gov))



# RULES TO HELP PREVENT SEXTING/SEXTORTION

1

## RULE #1

Never send compromising images of yourself to anyone, no matter who they are – or who they say they are.

2

## RULE #2

Do not open attachments from people you do not know.

3

## RULE #3

Turn off your electronic devices and web cameras when you are not using them.

4

## RULE #4

If you are receiving sextortion threats, know that you are not alone... report it!



S

Personal Information is a **SECRET**.

M

Never **MEET** anyone from the internet without a parent or guardian.

A

Never **ACCEPT** messages, emails, friend requests from unknown people.

R

**REMEMBER REALITY**- Not everyone tells the truth on the internet. People lie about who they are.

T

If anything or anyone online is worrying you **TELL** a parent or guardian.

**WHEN KIDS ARE *SMART*  
THEY CAN PREVENT  
ONLINE EXPLOITATION  
AND BULLYING**

# Potential signs of abuse or online grooming



## **Angry Outbursts**

Anger often covers deeper emotions such as shame or embarrassment. It can also present in children who are feeling confused or overwhelmed.

## **Increased Online Activity**

Other than school requirements, a potential victim will show increased use in electronic devices such as tablets, phones, computers and even gaming consoles that can access online gaming platforms.

## **Withdrawn**

Children and teens will seem withdrawn from interactions throughout the day. They may even seem distant (with or without a mobile device).



## **Anxiety**

Children who are confused, threatened, or coerced will get anxious. They may seem nervous frequently and even seem as if they feel in danger. Worry often presents itself constantly.

## **Depression**

Depression is a key sign of potential victimization such as cyberbullying, grooming, sextortion, or other types of online harassment.

## **Concealing Online Activity**

When a child or teen insists on hiding their online activity risky behavior may not be far behind. *Be aware of secrecy.* It is the key element which predators rely on for grooming and exploitation.

Five Ways to Keep Kids Safe Online

**NO ADULT-LEVEL PRIVACY**

**NO INTERNET IN THEIR ROOM**

**MONITOR ALL ONLINE ACTIVITY**

**TALK TO KIDS ABOUT PORN**

**NO ONLINE GAMING WITH STRANGERS**

**IF GROOMING  
OCCURS, CALL  
THE CYBER  
TIPLINE**



**1-800-843-5678**

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IDEAS FOR HOW YOU CAN

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LINK TO IT, POST A  
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DOWNLOADS  
PAGE!

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AS TEACHERS,  
YOUTH  
WORKERS,  
PARENTS -TO  
TAKE THE CLASS  
WITH YOU!

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