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## **Social Networking – *The Good Bad and Ugly***

### **Social Media: Public and Permanent**

- ✓ Social: an informal social gathering, esp. one organized by the members of a particular club or group.
- ✓ Media: the main means of mass communication (esp. television, radio, newspapers, and the Internet) regarded collectively.

### **Child molesters rely on the vulnerability of their victims to facilitate their assault**

#### **Sexual Abuse**

- ✓ 1 in 4 girls are sexually abused before age 18
- ✓ 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before age 18
- ✓ Most never tell
- ✓ 39 million survivors of childhood sexual abuse in the U.S.
- ✓ 67+% of all sexual assault victims are under 18
- ✓ Median age is 9 years old
- ✓ 1 or 7 victims of sexual assault reported to law enforcement agencies is under 6

#### **Cyber Bullying and Teen Suicide**

- ✓ Each year in the U.S., *thousands of teenagers* commit suicide
- ✓ Suicide is the *third leading cause of death* among young people, resulting in about 4,400 deaths per year, according to the CDC.
- ✓ For every suicide among young people, there are at *least 100 suicide attempts*
- ✓ Bullying victims are between *2 to 9 times more likely to consider suicide* than non-victims, according to studies by Yale University
- ✓ 10 to 14 year old girls are at even higher risk for suicide
- ✓ Nearly 30 percent of students are *either bullies or victims of bullying*
- ✓ Girls were about twice as likely as boys to be *victims and perpetrators* of cyber bullying
- ✓ 160,000 kids stay home from school every day because of fear of bullying

#### **What is Cyber Bullying?**

- ✓ Cyber bullying is any harassment that occurs via the Internet. Vicious forum posts, name calling in chat rooms, posting fake profiles on web sites, and mean or cruel email messages are all examples of cyber bullying.

### **Sites and Apps to be concerned about**

- ✓ Snap Chat
- ✓ Kik

### **Examples of cyber bullying:**

- ✓ HAPPY SLAPPING
- ✓ EXCLUSION
- ✓ PORN AND MARKETING LIST INSERTION
- ✓ GRIEFING
- ✓ PASSWORD THEFT AND LOCKOUT
- ✓ TRAGEDY NEWS MIRRORING
- ✓ SLUT SHAMING
- ✓ anonymous threatening and taunting emails
- ✓ A public forum is used to start or spread rumors about a person at a different school
- ✓ A school bulletin board is spammed
- ✓ A fake profile is posted
- ✓ A picture of a person is posted online without their knowledge and/or consent

### **A picture's worth a thousand words - *especially for cyberstalkers!***

- ✓ Geotagging – Obtaining GPS coordinates

### **What is “sexting”?**

- ✓ The sending or receiving of sexually-suggestive messages or pictures via one’s cell phone, web cam or other electronic means

### **Five Things To Think About Before Pressing “SEND”**

- ✓ Don’t assume anything you send or post is going to remain private
- ✓ There is no changing your mind in cyberspace—*anything you send or post will never truly go away*
- ✓ Don’t give in to the pressure to do something that makes you uncomfortable
- ✓ Consider the recipient’s reaction
- ✓ What if it was ME??
- ✓ Nothing is truly anonymous!

### **Don't trust that a message really is from whom it says it's from**

- ✓ Hackers can break into accounts and send messages that look like they're from your friends, but aren't.
- ✓ If you suspect that a message is fraudulent, use an alternate method to contact your friend to find out.
- ✓ This includes invitations to join new social networks.

**When these images reach cyberspace, they are *irretrievable* and can *continue to circulate forever*. Thus the child is revictimized as the images are viewed again and again.**

**As the popularity of these social sites grows, so do the risks of using them. Hackers, spammers, virus writers, identity thieves, and other criminals follow the traffic.**

- ✓ Use caution when you click links that you receive in messages from your friends on your social website. *Treat links in messages on these sites as you would links in e-mail messages.*
- ✓ To avoid giving away e-mail addresses of your friends, do not allow social networking services to scan your e-mail address book.
- ✓ Type the address of your social networking site directly into your browser or use your personal bookmarks
- ✓ Be selective about who you accept as a friend on a social network
- ✓ Assume that everything you put on a social networking site is permanent
- ✓ Be careful about installing extras on your site
- ✓ Think twice before you use social networking sites at work.
- ✓ Know what you've posted about yourself
- ✓ A common way that hackers break into financial or other accounts is by clicking the "Forgot your password?" link on the account login page.
- ✓ To break into your account, they search for the answers to your security questions, such as your birthday, hometown, high school class, father's middle name, on your social networking site.
  - Google alerts

### **Dealing With Cyberbullying**

- ✓ Strongly encourage your child not to respond to cyberbullying
- ✓ Do not erase the messages or pictures, save them as evidence
- ✓ Try to identify the person doing the cyberbullying. (Law enforcement can try searching ISP providers)
- ✓ If the cyberbullying is coming through email or a cell phone, *it might be possible to block future contact from the cyberbully*

### **What do I do if I am being Cyberbullied?**

- ✓ Tell a trusted adult and keep telling them until they take action
- ✓ If it's school related, tell your school
- ✓ If bullied through chat or IM, the bully can often be blocked
- ✓ If you feel threatened with harm, call the police
- ✓ Never open, read or respond to messages from cyber bullies
- ✓ Document – Need a course of conduct

## Warning Signs

- ✓ Your child suddenly stops using the computer or *appears nervous* when they receive a text message, Facebook notification or email
- ✓ Teens who are *visibly upset after using the computer* or are nervous when a text or instant message appears may be the target of online harassment
- ✓ Change in eating and sleeping habits
- ✓ Violent actions, rebellious behavior, or running away
- ✓ Drug and alcohol use
- ✓ Unusual neglect of personal appearance
- ✓ Marked personality change
- ✓ Persistent boredom, difficulty concentrating, or a decline in the quality of schoolwork
- ✓ Frequent complaints about physical symptoms, often related to emotions, such as stomachaches, headaches, fatigue, etc.
- ✓ Loss of interest in pleasurable activities
- ✓ Not tolerating praise or rewards
- ✓ Withdrawal from friends, family, and regular activities

## Parents need to be a detective!

### Have a “cell phone bedtime” for your kids!

- ✓ Your opportunity to check your child’s phone

## Talk to your kids about social networking and sexual abuse!

## Resources:

[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children – Great resource for parents, law enforcement and educators!

[www.netsmartz411.org](http://www.netsmartz411.org)

NetSmartz411 is parents' and guardians' premier, online resource for answering questions about Internet safety, computers, and the Web.

[www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)

Programs and information for all age groups

[www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com)

If you have information regarding possible child sexual exploitation, report it to the CyberTipline.