

My Rules for Online Safety

I Promise...

- I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' and/or guardians' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' and/or guardians' permission.
- I will tell my parents and/or guardians 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 and/or guardians. If my parents and/or guardians agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring one of my parents and/or guardians along.
- I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents and/or guardians.
- 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 and/or guardians right away so that they can contact the online service.
- I will talk with my parents and/or guardians so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day and length of time that I can be online.

Cut Here

12/06



**New Jersey State Police
Community Outreach Unit
P.O. Box 7068
West Trenton, New Jersey 08628-0068**

**(609) 882-2000, ext. 2849
www.njsp.org**

**Toll Free 24 Hour Hotline
1(888) 648-6007**



**NJ Dept. of Law & Public Safety
Division of State Police
High Technology Crimes and Criminal Investigations Support Unit**

Traveling the INTERNET

with your

Children



**Safety Tips
for Parents**



Taking the kids on a trip into Cyberspace can be a rewarding experience for you as well as your children. Before embarking on your trip, you should know that websites have the ability to collect a significant amount of personal information from children, such as the child's name, postal and e-mail address, and favorite activities and products. This information can be collected by asking children to register with the site, join a kids' club, enter a contest, or complete a questionnaire online.

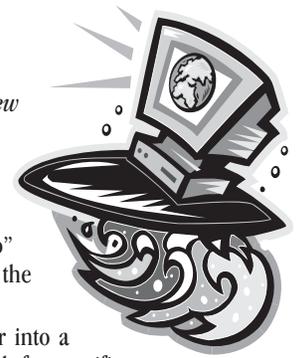
The personal information collected is used to create customer lists. In some cases, these are sold to list brokers, who, in turn, rent the lists to other advertisers. (Often, this practice is not revealed. Look at a website's privacy policy for an explanation of how the site handles your personal information.) Sometimes this information is posted on the website in "guest books," members' profiles, chat rooms, or on home pages hosted by a website. Posting such information may enable others to contact your child, possibly without your knowledge. It is unlikely that you would let personal information about your child be posted on a neighborhood bulletin board; exercise the same caution with electronic bulletin boards.

Children learn to use computers quickly, but because they lack life experience, they can reveal information you might not wish to share. That is one reason children should be supervised when they venture into Cyberspace. Here are some precautions you may want to take:

- Explore the Internet with your children. It is the best way to see what they see online. There are plenty of children-friendly sites; help your children find them, and explain why it is best to be careful not to give out their real name and address in chat rooms, to online pen pals, and on bulletin boards.
- Consider using filters that allow you to place certain sites and subjects off limits to your child. These "parent controls" are available through your online service or through special software you can buy. Filters aren't foolproof, but they help. Some Internet Service Providers offer filters to control the amount of unsolicited e-mail you receive.
- Have rules for going online. When your child has earned the right, issue a Cyberspace Passport and post it as a reminder of the achievement.
- Teach your children the meaning of privacy and personal—or family—information.
- Encourage them to post messages only with your permission and supervision.
- Show your child the difference between an advertisement and entertainment. A young child may not realize that an animated or cartoon character may be gathering market data or trying to sell something.

CYBERSPEAK: Learning the Language

You don't have to be a computer expert to book a trip into Cyberspace, but it certainly helps to know a few words of cyberspeak. Before long, you'll sound like a native and get around like an experienced traveler.



BOOKMARK - a web-browser function that lets you access your favorite websites quickly.

BROWSER - special software that allows you to navigate several areas of the Internet and view a website.

BULLETIN BOARD/NEWS GROUP - places to leave an electronic message or share news that anyone can read and respond to. Marketers or others can get your e-mail address from bulletin boards and news groups.

CHAT ROOM - a place for people to converse online by typing messages to each other. Some online services monitor their chat rooms and encourage children to report offensive chatter. Some allow parents to deny access to chat rooms.)

CHATTING - a way for a group of people to converse online in real-time by typing messages to each other.

COOKIE - when you visit a site, a notation may be fed to a file known as a "cookie" in your computer for future reference. If you revisit the site, the "cookie" file allows the website to identify you as a "return" guest—and offer you products tailored to your interests or tastes. You can set your online preferences to limit or let you know about "cookies" that a website places on your computer.

CYBERSPACE - another name for the Internet.

DOWNLOAD - the transfer of files or software from a remote computer to your computer.

E-MAIL - computer-to-computer messages between one or more individuals via the Internet.

FILTER - software you can buy that lets you block access to websites and content that you may find unsuitable.

INTERNET - the universal network that allows computers to talk to other computers in words, text, graphics, and sound, anywhere in the world.

ISP (Internet Service Provider) - a service that allows you to connect to the Internet. When you sign up (it takes special software and a modem), you will be asked to enter a user name, a secret password, and your credit card number. Usually, online charges are billed to your credit card. Most providers allow you to review your monthly expenses online instead of sending you a separate itemized bill. If you note unexpected charges from your ISP, call for an explanation. If you are not satisfied with the explanation, or think you may be the victim of fraud, write a letter to your credit card company and your state Attorney General.

JUNK E-MAIL - unsolicited commercial e-mail; also known as "spam." Usually junk e-mail does not contain the recipient's address on the "To" line. Instead, the addressee is a made-up

name, such as "friend@public.com," or the address on the "To" line is identical to the one on the "From" line.

KEYWORD - a word you enter into a search engine to begin the search for specific information or websites.

LINKS - highlighted words on a website that allow you to connect to other parts of the same website or to other websites.

LISTSERV - an online mailing list that allows individuals or organizations to send e-mail to groups of people at one time.

MODEM - an internal or external device that connects your computer to a telephone line and, if you wish, to a company that can link you to the Internet.

ONLINE SERVICE - an ISP with added information, entertainment, and shopping features (like AOL).

PASSWORD - a personal code that you use to access your account with your ISP.

PRIVACY POLICY - a statement on a website describing what information about you is collected by the site, and how it is used. Ideally, the policy is posted prominently and offers you options about the use of your personal information. These options are called opt-in and opt-out. An opt-in choice means the website will not use your information unless you specifically say it is okay. An opt-out choice means the website can use the information unless you specifically direct it not to.

SCREEN NAME - the name you call yourself when you communicate online. You may want to abbreviate your name or make up a name. Your ISP may allow you to use several screen names.

SEARCH ENGINE - a function that lets you search for information and websites. Using a search engine is like accessing the main card file in a library, only easier. A few keywords can lead you almost anywhere on the Internet. You can find search engines or a search function on many websites.

URL (Uniform Resource Locator) - the address that lets you locate a particular site. For example, <http://www.ftc.gov> is the URL for the Federal Trade Commission. All government URLs end in .gov. Non-profit organizations and trade associations end in .org. For example, <http://www.naag.org> is the URL for the National Association of Attorneys General. Commercial companies now end in .com, although additional suffixes or domains may be used as the number of businesses on the Internet grows. Other countries use different endings.