



TRAFFICKING & TECHNOLOGY: A GUIDE TO KEEPING YOUR KIDS SAFE ONLINE

*Learn as much as you can about your child's favorite apps, video games, websites, and devices.

*Delay smartphones until 8th grade. Check out the Wait Until 8th Campaign!

www.waituntil8th.org

*GABB Wireless phones are a great alternative to smartphones.

*Delay social media until 18 (minimum age 15).

*Consider a monitoring app such as Bark or Canopy. These apps allow you to monitor for bullying and inappropriate content, while giving your child the freedom of having a phone.

*Know all passcodes to devices.

*Do not allow devices in bedrooms overnight.

*Set a rule that devices will be used in common areas of the home, not behind closed doors.

*Adjust all online profile settings to private.

*Set time limits for usage.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

Maintaining ongoing communication with your children is important. Consider open communication rather than punishment. Children need to feel safe in order to disclose when they feel uncomfortable online. Try these conversation starters.

1 Have you heard of (insert app or game)?

Take time to research and learn about the apps your child is using. Learn how to lock down the privacy settings. Be open to learning from your child!

2 What do you do when you receive a friend request or follow request from someone you don't know?

Let's work together to determine if this is a safe person. Discuss the reasons we don't give out personal information online. You truly never know who you're talking to on the other end.

3 What do you do if you receive a message with pictures or words that make you uncomfortable?

The message could be from someone you know or someone you don't know. Discuss "strange behavior" vs. "stranger danger" to encourage your children to open up when it's someone they know.

4 Mistakes and lapses in judgement happen. It's ok! Let me help you make it right. We'll figure it out together.

SEXTORTION

SEX TRAFFICKING

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Traffickers use the internet to find and groom their victims. They can use online gaming, dating sites, social media, and job boards to target the most vulnerable.

Initially approaching in a friendly, attentive manner to gain trust, this quickly turns to false promises, affection, gifts, and more.

Once they can isolate their target, the abuse begins. They use force, fraud, and coercion to assert control.

Sextortion: A form of child sexual exploitation where children are threatened or blackmailed, most often with the possibility of sharing with the public a nude or sexual image of them, by a person who demands additional sexual content, sexual activity or money from the child.

Sex Trafficking: The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act. Induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced is under 18. Minors legally cannot consent to commercial sex acts.

Sexual Exploitation: A form of child sexual abuse in which a person of any age takes advantage of a power imbalance to force or entice a child into engaging in sexual activity in return for something received by the child and/or those perpetrating the abuse.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person.

The Case in Clayton, MO

- Local, 50-year-old business owner sentenced to 11 years in federal prison
- He used the KiK messaging app, pretending to be an 11 year old girl, befriending others
- He asked for and received sexually explicit pictures and videos from multiple minors, including a local 11-year-old girl.

Is This Trafficking?

One young girl accepts a social media friend request from what she thinks is a cute, 17-year-old boy. Once she accepts, he has access to her friends list and request them as well. They all accept. He's so cute! The girls are invited to a party in Wentzville. Once they arrive, they do not find cute 17-year-old boys. They find grown men who offer them alcohol and drugs. Pictures and videos are taken and the girls go home. They sleep in their own beds. Over the next few months, they are forced to return to multiple parties to partake in sexual activities and favors. They may have returned to their own homes each time, but they were trafficked. Their traffickers used sextortion, fraud, and coercion to control them, threatening to release the pictures and videos.