

Some Important Definitions:

Sexual Exploitation: When someone is used by another person for sexual purposes. This may be done by pressuring, threatening, promising, and/or intimidating someone.

Child Sexual Abuse: When a child or teen under 18 is forced, tricked, intimidated or pressured into any kind of sexual activity. When the offender is a family member it is called incest.

“Surfing the net”: Means different things to different people. For some, it means a quick look at the local news, for others it means a day of learning about their newest hobby, and for many it simply means fun and educational way to spend their spare time.

Unfortunately, the Internet can also be used in ways that hurt children. For example, the rapid growth of the Internet has allowed for easy access to the exchange of pornographic material. In addition, some sex offenders may surf the Internet to identify and make contact with potential child victims.

This brochure is designed to give parents and/or guardians information, safety tips and resources on using the Internet safely to reduce the risk of online sexual exploitation of children and teens.

STATEWIDE SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS
RESPONSE HOTLINE
1-800-977-5776

Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault

200 River Market Avenue, Suite 100
501-246-3276
1-866-63-ACASA (22272)
www.acasa.us

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***A Guide
For Parents
To Reduce
The Risk
Of Online
Sexual
Exploitation***

ACASA
Arkansas Coalition
Against Sexual Assault

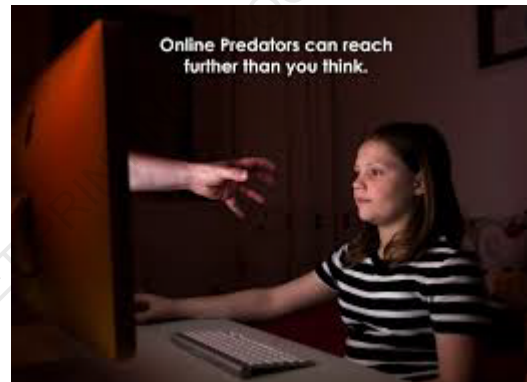
Guidelines for Parents and Guardians

- Get to know the computer. Spend time with your child online. Ask your child to show you their favorite website(s).
- Talk to your child about sexual exploitation and potential dangers when using the Internet.
- Tell your child if they feel uncomfortable with something that has happened online, they should tell you immediately.
- Tell your child that they should never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they “met” online.
- Do not allow your child to respond to messages or bulletin board items that are suggestive, obscene, or threatening.
- Keep the computer in the family room where you can monitor your child’s activities.
- Share an email account with your child so you are aware of the types of emails they receive.
- Do not allow your child to go into private chat rooms.
- Consider an online service that has special child accounts with restricted access to chat rooms and the internet.

What Are the Laws Related to Sexual Exploitation on the Internet?

In general, there are two types of laws, which can be used to address online sexual exploitation. Those which are designed to forbid visual depiction of children engaging in sexual acts and those which are designed to protect children from becoming victims of sexual offenders who attempt to contact them on the Internet.

Often these crimes violate federal and state laws because the Internet can be used by a person from one state to lure a child from another state into sexual activities and/or to send child pornography between states.



Computer Resources for Reducing Your Child’s Risk of Online Sexual Exploitation

Computer software companies often have filtering programs or screening products. These are software tools that parents can put into their computers to prevent certain material from reaching their children who are “surfing the net.”

Most work by limiting access to web sites that contain words such as “sex” that could link a child to a pornographic website. Be aware that pornographic sites are increasingly able to get around software filtering programs by using words that a child may use to research a class paper.

Instead of a software package, another option is to research Internet service providers to see if they offer filtering services. The filtering services they provide will be more current than what you would get in a software package.

- Family Guidebook: A Parent’s Guidebook to the Internet.
<http://www.familyguidebook.com>
- PedoWatch <http://pedowatch.org/parenting.html>
- Cyberangels <http://cyberangles.org/about/index/html>
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
<http://www.missingkids.com>