



Frequently Asked Questions Child Exploitation

1. *My ten year old daughter was chatting with a friend in a chat room and someone sent her an offensive picture. She was very upset. What should I do?*

Make it clear that telling you what happened was the right thing to do. Reassure your child that you are not upset with her. It is very important that you keep communication open; otherwise, if something like this happens again, your child might not feel comfortable talking to you. Once you have spoken to your child, you can report this to police in Toronto by phoning 416-808-2222. Outside Toronto, contact your local police agency or you may contact www.cybertip.ca and they will ensure the appropriate police agency is notified. Teach your daughter how to block someone online and Use this link for cyber safety information.

2. *What kind of education is available in regards to Internet safety?*

There are many Internet sights that provide educational tips for both parents and children. Examples are; www.cybertip.ca – kids in the know (Canadian), www.bewebaware.ca, www.safecanada.ca. Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to speak openly with their children about online dangers and to monitor their children's online activities.

3. *I received an invitation on-line to meet a great guy. How can I make sure that he's legit and that it's safe?*

You can't.

- Never meet anyone who you only know from your online activities.
- Don't collect unknown people on your buddy list
- Never give out personal information unless you are 100% certain whom you are talking to.
- If possible, avoid posting public profiles

4. *My boyfriend wants me to make a sex tape with him. What should I do?*

Don't do it! These tapes, although considered for personal use, could find their way onto the internet. Remember, once the image is taken, it could be placed on the internet forever. The making or the distribution of the tape could be considered child pornography.

5. *My son's school friends are all into Facebook and he wants to join. What is this and should I permit him to join?*

Facebook is a social network website where people post their profiles in order to communicate with friends or make new friends online. The dangers with Facebook are the same as they are with any networking site. We suggest you do a "google-type" search on "Facebook" to learn more about it.

6. *I was told that police officers don't recommend having web cams available on home computers. Is this true and why?*

The police don't want children using a webcam unsupervised. Webcams can be a great tool for family members and friends to communicate with; however, there are risks associated with webcams. Sexual predators also use webcams. Your children won't know they are communicating with a sexual predator until it is too late. The offenders may expose themselves live to your children or they may coerce your children into doing something that will at some point embarrass them. Once they transmit their image to the offender, it is caught forever in cyberspace. Children are vulnerable and trusting we need to keep them out of harm's way.