

## **Instruction**

### **Exhibit - Keeping Yourself and Your Kids Safe On Social Networks**

#### **For students:**

- Put everything behind password-protected walls, where only friends can see.
- Protect your password and make sure you really know who someone is before you allow them onto your friend's list.
- Blur or morph your photos a bit so they won't be abused by cyberbullies or predators.
- Don't post anything your parents, principal or a predator couldn't see.
- What you post online stays online - forever!!!! So ThinkB4UClick!
- Don't do or say anything online you wouldn't say offline.
- Protect your privacy and your friends' privacy too...get their okay before posting something about them or their pics online.
- Check what your friends are posting/saying about you. Even if you are careful, they may not be and may be putting you at risk.
- That cute 14-year old boy may not be cute, may not be 14 and may not be a boy! You never know!
- And, unless you're prepared to attach your blog to your college/job/internship/scholarship or sports team application...don't post it publicly!
- Stop, Block and Tell! (don't respond to any cyberbullying message, block the person sending it to you and tell a trusted adult).
- R-E-S-P-E-C-T! (use good netiquette and respect the feelings and bandwidth of others).
- Keep personal information private (the more information someone has about you, the more easily they can bully you).
- Google yourself! (conduct frequent searches for your own personal information online and set alerts ... to spot cyberbullying early).
- Take 5! (walk away from the computer for 5 minutes when something upsets you, so you don't do something you will later regret).

#### **And for parents:**

- Talk to your kids - ask questions (and then confirm to make sure they are telling you the truth!)
- Ask to see their profile page (for the first time)...tomorrow! (It gives them a chance to remove everything that isn't appropriate or safe...and it becomes a way to teach them what not to post instead of being a gotcha moment! Think of it as the loud announcement before walking downstairs to a teen party you're hosting.)
- Don't panic...there are ways of keeping your kids safe online. It's easier than you think!
- Be involved and work with others in your community. (Think about joining WiredSafety.org and help create a local cyber-neighborhood watch program in your community.)
- Remember what you did that your parents would have killed you had they known, when you were fifteen.
- This too will pass! Most kids really do use social networks just to communicate with their friends. Take a breath, gather your thoughts and get help when you need it. (You can reach out to WiredSafety.org.)
- It's not an invasion of their privacy if strangers can see it. There is a difference between reading their paper diary that is tucked away in their sock drawer...and reading their blog. One is between them and the paper it's written on; the other between them and 700 million people online!
- Don't believe everything you read online - especially if your teen posts it on her blog!

For more information, visit [www.WiredSafety.org](http://www.WiredSafety.org)

Reprinted with permission from "Parry Aftab's Guide to Keeping Your Kids Safe Online, MySpace, Facebook and Xanga, Oh! My!" Parry Aftab, Esq., [www.aftab.com](http://www.aftab.com).

## Resources for Students and Parents

### **Resources for students:**

Federal Trade Commission - [www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/kids-online](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/kids-online).

Connect Safely - Tips for Safe Social Networking for Teens [www.connectsafely.org/social-web-tips-for-teens/](http://www.connectsafely.org/social-web-tips-for-teens/) (2017).

NetSmartz - [www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/resources](http://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/resources).

### **Resources for parents:**

National Crime Prevention Council – Social Networking Safety, Tips for Parents <http://archive.ncpc.org/topics/internet-safety/social-networking-safety.html>. Great comprehensive article for parents.

Connect Safely - Social Web Tips for Parents <https://www.connectsafely.org/social-web-tips-for-parents/> (2017).

National Cyber Security Alliance - Raising Digital Citizens <https://staysafeonline.org/get-involved/at-home/raising-digital-citizens/>.

Illinois Attorney General – Stay Connected Stay Informed <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/cyberbullying/>.

Federal Trade Commission – COPPA: A few tips to keep your child safe online <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2019/04/coppa-few-tips-keep-your-child-safe-online> (2019).

DHS U.S. CERT - Socializing Securely: Using Social Networking Services [www.us-cert.gov/sites/default/files/publications/safe\\_social\\_networking.pdf](http://www.us-cert.gov/sites/default/files/publications/safe_social_networking.pdf).

DHS U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team - Staying Safe on Social Network Sites <https://us-cert.cisa.gov/ncas/tips/ST06-003> (2019).

Safe Chat Room and Social Sites for Kids <https://www.common sense media.org/lists/safe-chat-rooms-and-social-sites-for-kids>.

DATE: July 2016  
REVIEWED: October 28, 2021  
REVISED: October 28, 2021