



PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ONLINE DRUG DEALERS

Tips for Parents



Set Clear Expectations of Privacy

It is natural for kids to become increasingly private as they age. While this is normal, many aspects of online activity pose dangers. Here are some tips for managing your child's expectation of privacy and ways to monitor their activity.

- Parents should make it clear that they will monitor all online activity, whether with a tablet, home computer, smart TV, or smartphone.
- Take advantage of tools that manage and monitor screen time. The software available for this has come a long way and effectively oversees what kids view online.
- Require of your children to give you their passwords or create their social media profiles with them so you are aware of how they are presenting themselves online.
- Screen social media accounts and look for unusual profiles that may use drug emojis or certain terms in their bios.

Understand That Overdoses Are Possible Anytime

When young people are ordering drugs on the internet, there is a significant risk of a drug overdose. There may be no warning signs for parents or early signs of addiction before an overdose. All it takes is a substance laced with fentanyl to cause a fatal overdose. A person buying drugs online will not know what is in these substances.

Learn the Drug Emoji Code

Emojis are used to communicate in code with minors. The emoji drug code published by the DEA gives parents and kids an idea of what these codes look like. The more educated parents become, the better equipped they are to spot illegal activity online.



Understand the Dark Web

The dark web is real, and anyone can access it; illicit drugs are easily found there, among other things.

Parents should be aware of the following:

- Devices or computers that have TOR software (The Onion Router), which is the main browser to access the dark web.
- Crypto currency is the common payment method.
- Pay attention to what is arriving in the mail, such as strange packages or deliveries they are trying to hide.