



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ARIZONA

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Frequently Asked Questions on Internet Safety

- 1. What information should you put on a computer and what should you not give?**
You should never put any personal or identifying information on the Internet, such as your name, age, address, phone number, photos, school name, school mascot or family members' names.
- 2. Should children use chat rooms or "MySpace"?**
This question is best answered by your own parents. The Internet is not all bad, but there are dangers in engaging in online chat and posting personal information on sites like myspace.com. Students should talk with their parents to establish rules for safety.
- 3. Is Mr. Goddard going to put rules on "MySpace" on how to use it safely?**
Attorney General Goddard has posted some basic rules for Internet safety on the Kids Page of his Web site (www.azag.gov).
- 4. What is the punishment for the perpetrators?**
Predators that pursue children online, when caught by police, can be given very long prison sentences when convicted. If you ever feel like someone has approached you inappropriately, tell someone you trust immediately and print off the conversation for the police. There are also stiff penalties for people who commit fraud, create viruses and harass or threaten others online.
- 5. Is it currently against the law to use the Internet in a harmful way?**
Yes, for all of the types of cases cited above.
- 6. If someone was bothering you online, who would you report it to, other than your parents?**
School resource officer, school counselor, teachers, Cybertipline.org
- 7. Are there laws tough enough to keep people from putting viruses on our computers?**
There are tough laws against creating viruses to damage software, but people often choose to break the law. That is why each of us has to be very careful about what we allow to be downloaded onto our computers.
- 8. What are some signs or warnings we should look for going online to know if we are talking to a child or an adult?**
If you engage in an online conversation with someone you have not met in person, beware if the person: always agrees with you, tries to isolate you from your friends or family by taking your side against them, wants to meet you alone, engages in sexually inappropriate conversation, or becomes jealous if you don't talk to them

for awhile. Also, most adult predators are online at night, since they usually work during the day. And remember, you should NEVER meet someone in real life who you have first met online, unless you have your parents' permission and they go with you to meet the person in a public place.

9. What are your views about Internet safety for children?

Protecting children from Internet predators and scam artists is a very serious responsibility. While the Internet is an important resource and one of the major technological achievements of our lifetime, it is also used by adults who are seeking to exploit children.

10. Are there any free resources for people to obtain software programs to prevent hackers from getting personal information from your home computer?

I often refer people to a great Web site called www.getnetwise.org. It is a great resource for software programs that protect your computer.

11. How can parents make sure their children are safe but still allow them to use "MySpace" or other Web sites?

Maintaining an open and honest relationship with your parents is the key to not only the Internet, but all aspects of growing up. Letting them know what Web sites you go to, screen names you use and people you talk to online should help you establish the appropriate safeguards for using the Internet.

12. What are safe Web sites for children our age to go on/what would you recommend?

Fortunately, my friends at NetSmartz did a lot of the research for me. Their Web site at www.NetSmartz.org provides a number of links to fun and safe Web sites for young people. I also really like the information on www.commonsense.com that tells you how to get the most out of the Internet.

13. What do you do when nasty pictures are sent to you online?

Immediately tell your parent, guardian or trusted adult (school resource officer or other law enforcement, teacher, school counselor). Anyone who would do this NEVER has your best interests in mind. Break off all communications and report what happened to CyberTipline at www.cybertipline.com or 1-800-843-5678.