



### **Cyber-Safety and Internet Wisdom TIPS for children, parents and adults:**

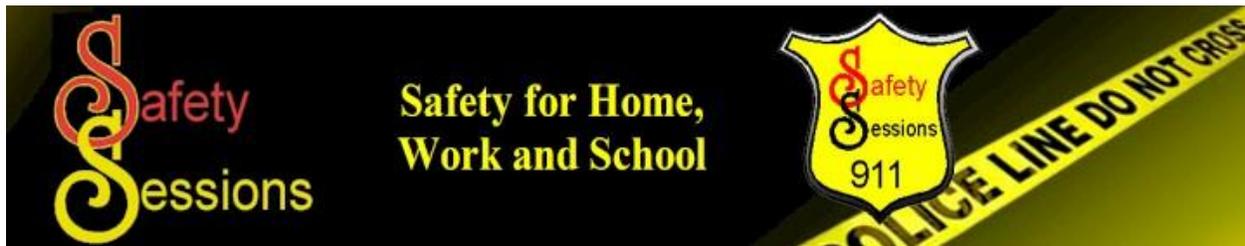
Law enforcement agencies put out a lot of effort in educating youth and their parents on internet, texting and other cyber-bullying type incidents. However, the reality is, many adults themselves aren't heeding warnings when it comes to sending inappropriate photos and videos or "bullying" others via text, email or social networking websites. At times, these types of incidents turn into criminal level cases.

Users should be aware that everything they send, whether they delete it or not, can be found again and used against them.

Think **BEFORE** you press the send button: A good rule of thumb is to ask yourself "would I want my mother, boss or spouse to see this photo or read this message?" If the answer is "no," don't send it.

Cyber-Safety and Internet Wisdom TIPS for all ages:

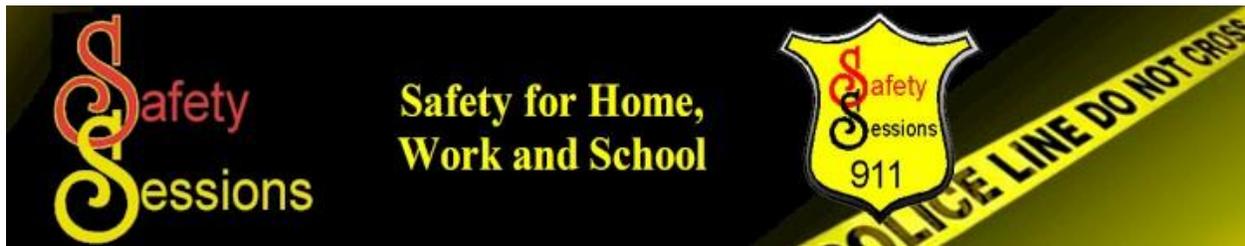
- Don't share any of your email or social website passwords with anyone.
- Don't respond to rude or inappropriate e-mails, messages, and comments.
- Don't forward any inappropriate emails, texts or photos.
- Save the evidence, such as e-mail and text messages, and take screenshots of comments and images. Also, take note of the date and time when the harassment occurs.
- Contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP) or cell phone provider. Ask the website administrator or ISP to remove any Web page created to hurt you or your child.
- If harassment is via e-mail, social networking sites, IM, and chat rooms, you may "block" bullies or delete your current account and open a new one.



- If harassment is via text and phone messages, change the phone number and only share the new number with trustworthy people. Also, check out phone features that may allow the number to be blocked.
- If this involves a child, get their school involved. Learn the school's policy on cyberbullying and urge administrators to take a stance against all forms of bullying.
- Make a report to [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com), and if you feel something illegal has occurred, inform law enforcement.

#### FOR PARENTS:

- Know who your child is communicating with online.
- Open a family e-mail account to share with younger children.
- Work with your child to brainstorm screen names and e-mail addresses that do not contain information about gender, identity, or location, and that avoid being suggestive.
- Teach your child never to open e-mails from unknown senders and to use settings on IM programs to block messages from people they do not know.
- Be aware of other ways your child may be going online—with cell phones, laptops, or from friends' homes or the library.
- Tell your child not to share passwords with anyone but you to help avoid identity theft and cyber bullying.
- Familiarize yourself with popular acronyms at sites like [www.netlingo.com](http://www.netlingo.com) and [www.noslang.com/](http://www.noslang.com/).
- Know where children may have access to the Internet—at school, friends' houses, community centers, or libraries—and where the computers may not have blocking and filtering mechanisms.
- Encourage your children to come to you or another trusted adult if he or she encounters inappropriate material.



- Install blocking, filtering, and monitoring software in order to block pop-ups, restrict access to sites with adult content, and see which sites your children visit.
- Discuss your family values with your children, and be clear about what online content aligns with those values.
- Report any sexual exploitation or online enticement of a child to [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com).