

ST@Y S@FE

Sex traffickers are looking for you online. Don't make it easy for them.

Practice these tips to protect yourself online!

1. Do not post your personal information.

Keep private information private. Social networking sites are awesome, but you do not want just anyone knowing your phone number, where you live, where you go to school, or your age. People that you know will already know this information anyway, so there's no reason to post it.

2. Protect your pictures.

Use the highest security settings on social networking sites. Do you really want human traffickers and pedophiles across the world to see a picture of you in your swimsuit or that revealing outfit? Posting pictures on your social networking profile is a great way to keep your friends updated with your life -- but you do not want to give STRANGERS the same privilege! Traffickers are constantly looking for girls to recruit by perusing pictures of anyone in their network.

3. Do not add people you have never met to your Friends list.

Anyone can take a picture from the Internet of an attractive teenager and say it is them. A good rule of thumb is to only become "friends" with people whom you have talked to in person and truly know.

4. Never post where you're going on social media; only post where you've been.

If someone manages to get to your page, they can track you through your online activity. Posting pictures and comments on social media from your smartphone may list your location without you being aware of it. You can turn this feature off. Ask your cell phone provider how to do this.

5. Don't post anything that you wouldn't want your future boss, coaches, teachers, or the police to see.

If you have any embarrassing pictures, videos, or comments that don't show you in your best light, take them off! Of course the best way to avoid all that trouble is to not post anything inappropriate on the internet because once something is posted online, it's nearly impossible to "take it back".

6. Beware of strangers or even friends telling you they have an easy way to make money.

The most common offers deal with modeling or acting. Talk with your parents about anyone who approaches you with this type of offer. If they are from a reputable company, there will be a way to confirm so and keep you safe in the process.

7. Avoid talking about sex online.

Teens who don't talk about sex with strangers online are less likely to come in contact with predators. Do not hesitate to ignore or block someone who tries to engage you in these types of conversations online. Don't answer their questions or give out information about yourself or your friends. What

appears to be harmless flirting can lead to dangerous activity in seconds. Trust your gut when something feels wrong.

8. Remember, not everything on the Internet is true.

Anyone and anything can be on the Internet. From profile pictures to flirtation to rumors to homework resources, anything can be made up. No one is fact-checking the Internet for accuracy. Be smart about what you do and who you trust!

