



INTERNET SAFETY

The internet is a great tool to access endless information from the World Wide Web or to email friends and family from around the world. However, it is also a great tool for predators and criminals who use it to prey on the unwary and yet they can remain anonymous. It is imperative that users of the internet protect themselves by being educated about the dangers of the internet. Your online actions have offline consequences.”

By following the steps listed below, you or your children may be better equipped to protect yourselves.

- Learn about computers and what they can and cannot provide.
- Always use well established search engines.
- Always know what sites your children are surfing and discuss the dangers of the internet with them.
- Keep the computer in a common area of your home so that children’s activities can be monitored.
- Block access to pornographic sites and adult chat rooms.
- Limit the time your children spend on the computer. Don’t let the computer take over from other activities.
- Never give out personal information over the internet unless you are absolutely certain you know where it is going and how it will be used. Always use an impersonal nickname.
- Never tell anyone your passwords to websites.
- Never give out your e-mail address on line. Avoid spam and unwanted junk mail.

- Never give out your credit card number or financial information unless you trust the site you are on.
- Be cautious about downloading off the internet as programs can contain viruses that will crash your computer system
- Be very sure of whom you are sending digital photos to over the internet. Never send photos to an unknown person or site. The photo can be used, modified or sent to anyone.
- Never arrange to meet someone you have met over the internet without telling someone about it. Only meet in well lit public places where there are other people around.
- Never believe everything you find on the internet.

Surfing the internet can be educational as well as fun and you can travel the world. Just beware of the dangers, the same as you would living in the real world.