

Keeping Up With Your Teenager

Austin County Sheriff's Office Internet Crimes Against Children



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Why This Matters

- • Teens live online
- • Apps change faster than controls
- • Most cases start as conversations
- • Communication matters more than monitoring

Most Used Apps by Teens

- YouTube
- TikTok
- Snapchat
- Instagram
- Discord
- WhatsApp
- Gaming chats - Roblox/Minecraft
- Hidden/Vault apps

YouTube Risks

- • Shorts algorithm pushes extreme content
- • Rabbit hole effect
- • Family Link helps but isn't foolproof

FaceTime

- Remote access to other device (with permission)
- Screenshots can be saved and added into AI enhanced software

TikTok Risks

- Fast-learning algorithm
- Grooming & sexual content
- Restricted mode easily bypassed
- Multiple accounts common

Snapchat Reality

- Messages still stored on servers
- Screenshots not always notified
- Snap Map shows real location
- Primary sexting platform
- “My Eyes Only”
- Monitor their followers: Not normal to have adult followers for young or teenage kids

Instagram Concerns

- • DMs allow adult contact
- • Vanish mode hides chats
- • Secondary accounts common

Discord & Gaming Chats

- No real parental controls
- Voice + text grooming
- Trust built over time
- In-Game settings can override device settings!

Hidden & Vault Apps

- • Disguised as calculators or notes
- • Used to hide images/messages
- • Major red flag

Online Dangers

- Grooming
- Sextortion
- Cyberbullying
- Threats
- Exploitation
- Remote Access to devices left at home.
- Metadata/Geolocation data is available when pictures, etc. are shared.

Signs to Watch For

- Secrecy and Isolation
- Emotional swings
- Multiple accounts
- Phone anxiety
- **Physical Symptoms:** Complaints of headaches, stomachaches, or changes in eating and sleeping patterns

Sexting & The Law

- • Nude images of minors (<18yrs old) = felony
- • Self-taken images still illegal
- • Sharing = distribution- charges can range from a misdemeanor to a felony and in some cases require the person to register as a sex offender

Emerging Threats - 764

- 764 is a decentralized, internationally operating online sextortion network. It emerged in 2021 from the CVLT network.
- Although 764 has been described as a "Satanic neo-Nazi cult" by multiple sources, investigations suggest that its members' misanthropic worldview and sadistic tendencies are more significant drivers, with group dynamics playing a key role in further radicalization. Members of 764 frequently adopt the corresponding symbolism but are primarily described as being motivated by sadism.
- 764 has been described as a terror network by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), and is considered a terrorist "tier one" investigative matter by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Artificial Intelligence - AI

- In many cases, individuals use GenAI to create “deepfake” images: for example, they use GenAI to manipulate benign images of actual children to make it appear as though the children are engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Incels

- "Incels" (a portmanteau of "involuntarily celibate") refers to an online subculture of primarily heterosexual, young men who define themselves by their inability to find a romantic or sexual partner despite desiring one.
- Isolated
- They spend hours online

What to tell your children?

- EVERY IMAGE THAT IS SENT THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA IS REVIEWED!!!!
- IF THE CHAT IS SEXUAL IN NATURE OR LINKED TO AN ACCOUNT WITH A PERSON UNDER 18 Y/O, NCMEC IS NOTIFIED AND A CYBER-TIP IS GENERATED!!!!
- IF A REQUEST IS MADE TO "TAKE IT DOWN" PROJECT, LAW ENFORCEMENT IS NOTIFIED!

What Parents/SROs Can Do

- • Talk early & often
- • Normalize tough conversations
- • Set expectations
- • Know the apps

Terminology & Definitions

- **Amino:** An app that lets users join online communities, chats, forums, and groups on a variety of topics based on their interests.
- **Askfm:** A social networking site that allows users to ask other people questions, often anonymously.
- **Calculator%:** A "vault" or secret app that appears harmless, but hides photos, videos, files, and browser history.
- **Chatroulette:** There are over 20 different chat roulette sites that allow users to instantly connect via webcam and video chat. Sites typically pair the users randomly and instantly.
- **Discord:** A voice-over-IP (VOIP) app that allows users to video chat with others, private message, and join, create, or participate in public and private chat rooms. This app is often used by players to chat with each other while playing videogames.
- **Facebook and Facebook Live:** The most commonly used social media site that is accessible on many different media platforms.
- **Facebook Messenger Kids:** A messaging app and platform for children.
- **Houseparty:** A group video chat and social networking app that allows up to eight people to video chat at once in a "room."
- **Instagram:** A photo and video sharing and networking site that connects users through other social networking sites (e.g., Facebook).
- **Kik:** Messaging app that allows users of all ages to contact others anonymously.
- **Line:** A messaging app that allows users to make free phone calls, leave voice messages, and text. Users can delete texts or chats from recipient's phone using a timer.
- **LiveMe:** A tool to broadcast live-streaming videos and watch other users' videos.

- **MeetMe:** A dating app that connects users to others based on geographic proximity.
- **Omegle:** An app that pairs users with strangers in anonymous one-on-one chat sessions.
- **Reddit:** A site that stores social news, rates and evaluates web content, and discussion threads.
- **Roblox:** An online game platform with free multiplayer games created by users. Roblox allows users to communicate with each other and join groups.
- **Sarahah:** An anonymous messaging app that allows users to send anonymous messages to people they may know.
- **Snapchat:** A photo messaging app that allows for sharing pictures and short videos that are intended to be erased shortly after delivery.
- **Telegram:** Messaging app that allows users to share photos, videos, and files; make calls, and delete texts or chats from recipient's phone using a timer.
- **TikTok:** An app that allows users to create and share their own videos where they lip-synch, sing, dance, or just talk.
- **Tumblr:** A social networking site that allows posting of short blogs and media.
- **Twitch:** A live stream platform for gamers to watch live stream content, chat, and connect
- **Twitter:** A microblogging site that allows users to send, read, and reply to "tweets" or short messages.
- **VSCO:** A photography app to capture and edit photos.
- **WeChat:** An app that allows user to chat with friends, and to search for people nearby and around the globe.
- **WhatsApp:** A private messaging app that allows users to text, send photos, videos, and location information to their contacts.
- **Whisper:** An anonymous social media site that allows users to post and share photo and video messages.
- **YouTube:** A video sharing platform that allows users to post and share videos.
- **YUBO (formerly YELLOW):** An app referred to as the "Tinder for teens" that allows users to swipe right or left to accept or reject the profiles of other users.
- **YouNow: Broadcast, Chat, and Watch Live Video:** An app that lets teens broadcast themselves live. They can see and respond to live chat or view other broadcasters and chat with them.

IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG!!!

- Obtain as much information about the suspect accounts – Username, email, phone numbers, pictures (Faces, etc.)
- Seize the device (iOS – disable Lockdown and Stolen Theft Protection). Notify local law Enforcement
- Make sure you have the password for your child's device (phone, ipad, etc.)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Glossary:
<https://www.internetmatters.org/Resources/glossary/>
- NCMEC:
<https://www.missingkids.org/home?lang=en-US>
- Make A Cyber-Tip:
<https://report.cybertip.org/port>

Final Message

- You won't out-tech your teen
- But you can out-communicate the risk
- As parents, protection for our children start at home by communication, education and monitoring them