



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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**ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF 49 STATES ANNOUNCE
AGREEMENT WITH FACEBOOK TO MAKE SITE SAFER FOR UNDERAGE USERS**

The attorneys general of Hawai'i, 48 other states, and the District of Columbia announced that Facebook has agreed to changes to better protect children from predators and inappropriate content and to participate in a task force on implementation of age and identity verification software.

The agreement is similar to one that MySpace reached in January 2008 with 49 states, including Hawai'i, and the District of Columbia. MySpace agreed to head a task force, which Facebook has joined, to explore and develop age and identity identification tools for social networking sites.

Changes agreed to by Facebook include providing automatic warning messages when a child is in danger of giving personal information to an unknown adult, restricting the ability of users to change their listed ages, acting more aggressively to remove inappropriate content and groups from the site, and requiring third party vendors to adhere to Facebook's safety and privacy guidelines.

Under the changes, the first time a Facebook user wants to change his or her age, website staff will review the user's profile to determine whether the change is appropriate.

In addition, companies offering Facebook users services -- called "widgets" -- will now have to implement and enforce Facebook's safety and privacy guidelines.

Facebook also has agreed to maintain a list of pornographic websites and regularly sever any links to such sites. It will remove groups for incest, pedophilia, cyberbullying, and other violations of the site's terms of services, as well as expel from the site individual violators of those terms.

Facebook will also display safety tips more prominently, require users under 18 to affirm that they have read Facebook's safety tips when they sign up, and regularly review models for abuse reporting.

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