

# cyber safety



**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS**  
**GREG ABBOTT**

Computers and the Internet have revolutionized the way we live. But along with this great progress, comes new dangers and responsibilities. One in five children will be solicited online this year. As parents, we must do everything we can to prevent our children from being victimized by this new breed of child predator.

Thank you for your commitment to your children and to the future of Texas.



*Greg Abbott*

Greg Abbott

Texas Attorney General

## Internet Safety Tips for Parents

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- Keep the computer in a common room of the house.
- Speak openly about safety issues. Children will be less likely to come to you if the issue is enshrouded in secrecy. If they feel that you are comfortable discussing the subject matter, they may be more forthcoming to you.
- Get involved. Tell your children to show you the sites they like to visit online. Keep their passwords readily accessible and access your child's account regularly.
- Set clear rules restricting children from displaying their name, address, telephone number, pictures and other personal information online.
- Tell your children they are never to agree to get together with someone they "meet" online. Warn them of the dangers of such meetings and tell them to alert you if someone approaches them about setting up a face-to-face meeting.

## Internet Safety Tips for Teens

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- Don't give out personal information about yourself, including where you go to school, your address, or your telephone number.
- Report unwanted solicitations to your parents or a trusted adult.
- If you become aware of the sharing, use, or viewing of child pornography online, **immediately report this to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children** at 1-800-843-5678 or online at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com).
- Don't believe everything you read in chatrooms. Remember, a person who says they're a 14-year-old girl from Texas may really be a 42-year-old man from your hometown.
- If someone harasses you online, says anything inappropriate, or does anything that makes you feel uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult and contact your Internet service provider.
- A "friend" you meet online may not be the best person to talk to if you are having problems at home, with your friends, or at school.

## Teen Chat Lingo

**121** one to one

**A/S/L?** age, sex, location

**BBL** be back later

**BF** boyfriend

**BRB** be right back

**CUL** or **CUL8ER** see you later

**CYO** see you online

**F2F** face to face

**GF** girlfriend

**H&K** hug and kiss

**ILU** I love you

**IM** instant message

**IPN** I'm posting naked

**IRL** in real life

**IWALU** I will always love you

**KOL** kiss on lips

**LDR** long distance relationship

**LMIRL** let's meet in real life

**LOL** laughing out loud

**LTNS** long time, no see

**L UWAMH** love you with all  
my heart

**M/F** male or female

**MOSS** member of same sex

**MOTOS** member of the  
opposite sex

**MSG** message

**NIFOC** naked in front  
of computer

**NP** nosy parents

**OLL** online love

**P2P** peer to peer

**P911** my parents are coming!

**PA** parent alert

**PAL** parents are listening

**PANB** parents are nearby

**PDA** public display of affection

**PM** private message

**POS** parent over shoulder

**RL** real life

**ROTFL** rolling on the  
floor laughing

**RPG** role playing games

**SO** significant other

**TAW** teachers are watching

**TMI** too much information

**TOY** thinking of you

**W/E** whatever

**WTGP** want to go private?

**WUF** where are you from?

**Blog** A frequent Web listing of personal thoughts and Web links. A blog is much like an online diary which includes what is happening in a person's life. Blogs are also called web logs or weblogs.

**Chat** Real-time communication over the Internet. You type and send messages that appear almost instantly on the computer monitors of the other people who are participating in the chat.

**Chatroom** An interactive forum where you can talk in real-time. The chatroom is the place or location online where the chat is taking place.

**Cyberspace** Refers to all the computer networks on the Internet. The term distinguishes the physical world from the virtual or computer-based world.

**Cyberstalking/Harassment** Terms that can refer to the online enticement of children; rude or threatening messages; slanderous information; or repeated, unwanted messages.

**Download** Putting information on your computer. You can download information from the Internet, discs or CDs, and other computers.

**E-Mail (electronic mail)** A service that allows people to send messages with pictures and sounds from their computer to any other computer in the world.

**Emoticons** Animated faces that express different emotions you can send in E-mails, chat, and Instant Messaging. Emoticons are a way to show someone online how you are feeling.

**History** A list of web sites the people using a particular computer have visited. Viewing the history can be used to monitor what sites your children have visited.

**Instant Messaging (IM)** A service that allows people to send and receive messages almost instantly.

**Internet** A network of millions of computers from all over the world. The Internet allows computers to trade information using telephone lines, fiber-optic cables, and satellite links. It is also referred to as the "Net."

**Leet Speak** The corruption or modification of written text. This form of communication uses inverted numbers and letters. For more about leet speak visit: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leet>

**Monitoring Software** Software products that allow parents to monitor or track the web sites or E-mail messages that a child visits or reads.

**Online Solicitation** Receiving unwanted sexual advances from someone communicating with you over the Internet.

**Podcast** An audio show that is broadcast over the web. Users can listen to these shows on a digital music player or a computer. Podcasts can include talk shows, music, or other types of audio.

**Post** To leave a message on a newsgroup or bulletin board.

**Trusted Adult** Someone who will help protect you and make you safer. Trusted adults can be people like family members, caregivers, family friends, teachers, counselors, coaches, clergy members, youth leaders, and law-enforcement officers.

**To report unwanted online solicitations,  
contact the National Cyber Tipline at 1 (800) 843-5678.**