CAC Internet Safety

Kentucky Office of the Attorney General
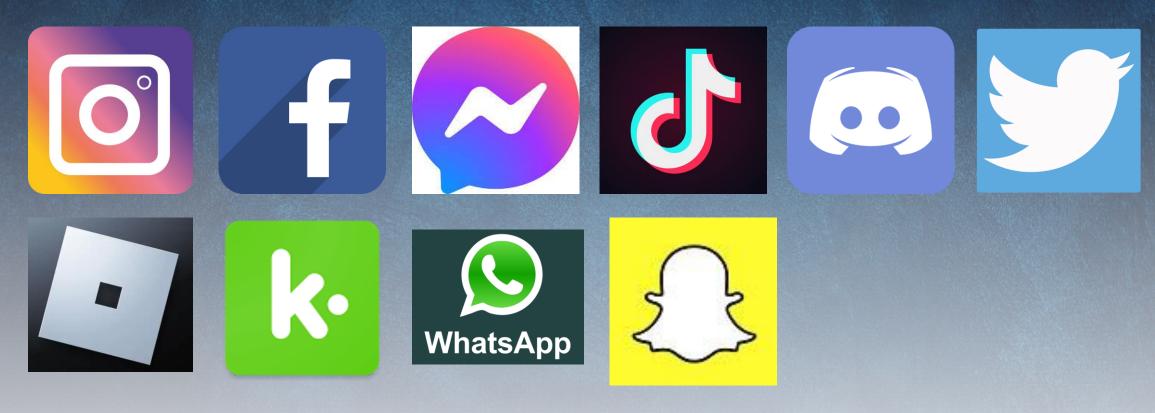
Department of Criminal Investigations

The Ugly Truth

- At any given moment, it is estimated that 780,000 predators are online prowling for children

- This includes any and all electronic devices

- Even though this is a national statistic, WHY IS IT IMPORTANT…?

THE INTERNET IS EVERYWHERE!!!

#1

Reportedly fastest internet

SOCIAL MEDIA

ICAC Trends

- Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)

- Online Enticement

- Sextortion

- Child Sex Trafficking

- Cyberbullying

Online Enticement

Online Enticement involves an individual communicating with someone believed to be a child via the internet with the intent to commit a sexual offense or abduction. This is a broad category of online exploitation and includes sextortion, in which a child is being groomed to take sexually explicit images and/or ultimately meet face-to-face with someone for sexual purposes, or to engage in a sexual conversation online or, in some instances, to sell/trade the child's sexual images. This type of victimization takes place across every platform; social media, messaging apps, gaming platforms, etc.

Source: National Center For Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

Sextortion:

Sextortion is a form of child sexual exploitation where children are threatened or blackmailed, most often with the possibility of sharing with the public a nude or sexual images of them, by a person who demands additional sexual content, sexual activity or money from the child.

https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/sextortion

Source: National Center For Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

- https://youtu.be/a440H146I14?si=x1HjS6yPnQ65e2l8

Child Sex Trafficking

Child sex trafficking is a form of child abuse that occurs when a child under 18
is advertised, solicited or exploited through a commercial sex act. A commercial sex act is
any sex act where something of value – such as money, food, drugs or a place to stay – is
given to or received by any person for sexual activity.

Source: National Center For Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the use of technology to tease, humiliate, threaten and/or harass someone. It can take place through text messaging or social media. Cyberbullies might send mean comments, post embarrassing photos, or share private information about someone to humiliate or mock them online. Even if you are not being cyberbullied, it is everyone's job to prevent bullying and to take a stand.

Source: National Center For Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

- https://youtu.be/IVYJzpWjfgY?si=Gujr7o6FsJnXYmvu

Catfishing

"Catfish" build relationships of confidence and trust in the online world of social media. They appear to be just like everyone else. Having tricked you into believing that they are your friend, they will deceive you for their own purposes. They paint an online identity that's empathetic, sympathetic and like-minded. It is subtle manipulation and that's why a user often does not attempt to verify the information being used by a "catfish".

Source: National Center For Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

RED FLAGS

- Approach a child on social media after using it to learn about the child's interests, friends, school, family, etc.

- Move quickly and ask for nudes immediately after following or friending a child on a social media platform.

- Intentionally move their communications with the child from one online platform to another (e.g., moving from social media to private video chat or messaging apps).

TACTICS:

- Reciprocation ("I'll show you, if you show me").

- Pretending to work for a modeling agency to obtain sexual images of the child.

- Developing a bond with the child by establishing a friendship/romantic relationship.

- Using multiple false online identities to contact a child.

- Pretending to be younger and/or a member of the opposite sex.

- Accessing the child's online account without authorization and stealing sexual images or videos of the child.

- Threatening to create sexual images or videos of the child using digital-editing tools.

How to protect your accounts:

- Secure account password

- Keep accounts set to private

- Only add people you know

- Post personal information (Profile bio)

- Avoid geotagging locations
  - Turn off your location services for the applications

- Block other users
  - **Cyber bullying**

How to protect yourself:

- Don't post images of yourself or others that you will one day regret
  - Consider future opportunities/ employment

- Don't send/post/livestream nude images/ risky images
  - Considered a crime

- Don't engage in sexual conversation- even if you think you can trust them (sexting)

- Don't forward images/videos of others
  - Consider that person's feelings
  - Criminal consequences

What to do if you come across a predator:

- Report them
  - NCMEC- Cyber Tip Line
    - https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline
  - Safety features on the application

- Take screenshots of the conversation/ their profile

- Contact Local Law Enforcement
  - Louisville Metro Police Department
  - KSP- Electronic Crime Branch
  - Kentucky Attorney General's Office- Special Victims Unit

- Talk to someone- like your mentor

- Block them- Protect yourself

- Know that you're not alone

Resources:

- NCMEC
  - https://report.cybertip.org/other-resources

- Take-it-down

- Legal Resources

- Emotional Support

Numbers don't lie:

- In 2023, the CyberTipline received 186,819 reports of online enticement, the category that includes sextortion.

- Between 2021 and 2023, the number of online enticement reports increased by 323%.

- Source: National Center For Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

Questions

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