



Protocol—Online Safety Rules for Young People

Do (advisable behavior):

- **Honor all rules (from your school, family, etc.) for Internet use.**
- **Use only non-identifying nicknames.**
- **On social networking sites, only “friend” people that you know in person.**
- **Know that anything you write or post on the Internet could be read by anyone with access to the Internet, even if such entries have been marked private. Predators often use such information to search out vulnerable young people, so it is extremely important that you use caution when interacting through social media.**
- **Use webcams only with people you know in person, and then do so respectfully and appropriately. It is important to know that software can be secreted onto a hard drive that gives a remote (and unauthorized) user access to your web browser and camera. If you have a webcam, consider the following safety measures:**
 - **If you use a laptop computer, close it when it is not being used.**
 - **If your camera is not integrated (USB-attached, for example), point it at a blank wall or something equally bland when not in use.**
 - **Place an obstruction over the webcam lens to effectively prevent the chance of spying.**
- **Talk honestly and openly with a trusted adult if you have a negative experience online.**
- **If you know of a peer who is either engaging in or experiencing negative or dangerous online behavior, tell a trusted adult immediately.**

- Remember that whatever you post to the Internet is there forever... Do not post *anything* that you wouldn't want *everyone* to see—including your parents, teachers, friends, representatives from colleges, and even potential employers.

Should Not Do (risky behavior, at best):

- Do not open a social networking or email account without the appropriate permission.
- Do not use your full name when establishing user names.
- Do not post information about your personal schedule (i.e. when you have practice, when you plan to go to the movies, when your family is going on vacation). Do not post the full names (or any identifying information) of your friends without permission.
- Do not download anything without the permission of a responsible adult. Never Do (dangerous behavior):

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- Never engage in any harassing or bullying behaviors either in person or online.
- Never text, email, or post obscene or otherwise inappropriate pictures or graphic language.
- Never post any identifying information such as your home address, cell phone number, birthday, social security number, or school.
- Never post photographs of you or your friends that contain clearly identifiable details such as street signs, license plates on cars, home address numbers, or the name of your school (or even school mascots on clothing).
- Never alter a computer history files.

- **Never physically meet anyone in person that you've communicated with only online. You could be in real danger if you actually meet “Internet friends” who are in fact strangers that you've only communicated with online.**
- **Do not download or plagiarize academic material.**
- **Never illegally download music, movies, or other media.**
- **Never knowingly upload viruses, trojans, spyware, etc., nor “hack” into unauthorized sites or information**