

Here is a website that provides information on sex offenders online.

www.us-sex-offenders.com

What You Can Do Now

1. Don't PANIC and run home and unplug everything computer related. Don't become suspicious of everyone you come in contact with.
2. Visit the resources listed in this presentation and Handout. (*Educate yourself on these issues and resources to enable yourself to take action.*)
3. Pray with your children daily and ask for protection. Develop a strong relationship with your children to combat this risk. Rules without relationship does not work in establishing a strong family life. Let your children know you are on their side and are only trying to protect them.
4. Consider having this information presented to other Church groups, parents, and educators.
5. Inform other parents and educators.

If You have a Problem

In recent years the Christian community has begun waking up to the reality that there is a growing problem with pornography in the Church. While there is still a lagging behind on resources, many church leaders and organizations are trying to provide better help and resources in strengthening believers against this onslaught of pornographic materials being solicited online.

As a community we need to set aside previous views and prejudices in such matters and realize there is a desperate need to come alongside struggling members of our community rather than simply judging and condemning them. There is a growing need to come alongside them and bring restoration rather than demanding exile of the offending brother or sister who is wanting to repent and find help in their struggle.

If you are struggling right now:

1. Do not think you can handle this on your own.
2. Of those who engage in pornography through the internet on a *regular basis*, almost all will not be able to stop without some kind of help.
3. If you are caught up in child pornography, you will not be able to stop without help.
4. You must commit yourself to Christ and seek for God to bring restoration to your life.

5. Have someone else help you clear out your computer and materials, someone you can then be accountable to for future assistance in turning away from your addiction. (knowledgeable help is preferred, someone who is trained in this type of struggle.)
6. You must understand that if you have crossed legal boundaries and not just moral boundaries, you may have some repercussions to those choices. Nevertheless, you will still need to openly seek help.

"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall." - 1 Cor 10:12

If you find yourself in a place to help:

1. Receive the struggling believer with compassion knowing they are beyond turning away from this problem on their own. Consider Paul's words.

"Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; {each one} looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:1-2

Silence in this area of life is a mistake. We can no longer be silent or pretend there is no problem. We have a problem and it is beyond ever going back to the way it was before. As a believer living in the 21st Century, these issues will only continue to grow more and more difficult to live with. We must make choices and commitments regarding our families and ourselves in regard to pornography and those who would seek to harm our families.

We hope you feel knowledgeable enough now and aware enough now to do something. God bless you as you seek Him for your life and the life of your family. If you need any further assistance in these areas, feel free to contact us with your questions.

Contact your local Christian church

Protecting Children & Families from **PORNOGRAPHY** *and Sexual Predators online*



Internet Risks, Dangers and Safety

Protecting Children & Families from PORNOGRAPHY and Sexual Predators online

This presentation has been created and given for the sake of parents and those responsible for the security of their family as well as others they care about. It is not an easy presentation to handle emotionally. We do not recommend that children be in attendance. Nevertheless, parents and others need to understand the reality of the danger involved in internet use and other forms of modern technology.

In the world around us, the internet has become commonplace and a pivotal part of our culture. For this reason, we cannot ignore the signs that something is critically wrong with this part of our every day lives. The facts are startling and we should not and cannot ignore them. The predators surfing the internet on a daily basis ensure that parents must be just as diligent in protecting their family.

For your convenience we have provided this pamphlet to enable you to leave this presentation with the information you need to protect yourself and your family. We hope that in some way we can contribute to the defense of the family and the innocent lives that are being torn apart on a daily basis in the United States.

The Risks and Dangers

- According to a National Children's Homes report, the number of Internet child pornography images has increased 1500% since 1988.
- 1 in 5 children are sexually solicited or approached over the Internet in a one-year period of time. (*Actual numbers are much higher*)
- 89% of sexual solicitations were made in either chat rooms or Instant Messages.
- Law enforcement officials estimate that as many as 50,000 sexual predators are online at any given moment. [*Dateline, January 2006*]
- 87% of university students polled have virtual sex using Instant Messenger, webcam, Cell phone, and telephone. [*"CampusKiss and Tell" University and College Sex Survey. Released on February 14, 2006.*]

- Of those arrested in the US for the possession of child pornography during 2000 & 2001
 - 83% had images involving children between ages 6 and 12.
 - 39% had images involving children between ages 3 and 5.
 - 19% had images of infants and toddlers under age 3.
 - 70% Admitted molesting up to 30 children.
- 61% of 13-18 year-olds have sent or posted pictures and or movies of themselves online.
- One-third of youth ages 8-18 have talked about meeting someone they have only met through the Internet.
- 22% of youth ages 16-18 have actually met face-to-face with someone they only chatted with. [*Using Internet chat rooms or through personal web pages like MySpace.*]



Some Resources for Parents

- **Some Internet Safety Tips**
 1. Place your computers in a central location in your home. (*Make them visible to everyone*)
 2. Do not allow chatting online with people they do not know. (*Take the "don't talk to strangers" message into the digital world*)
 3. Have standards regarding your child's privacy. (*They don't have any in this area!*)
 4. Become familiar with the chatting and search tools used by your children.
 5. Know who is most "at risk." (age 10-14)
 6. (No unmonitored chat lines, and **NEVER** give out personal information or photographs)
 7. Don't rely solely on software to block or filter content. (*It simply can't stop it all*)
 8. Let your child know that reporting unwanted or suspicious solicitations won't lead to restrictions on computer use.
- **Tools Monitoring & Restricting Internet Use on Computers**
 1. Internet Explorer's Content Advisor (Open Internet Explorer Help and type in "Children" - it takes you directly to the instructions for the IE Content Advisor.)

2. Software protection: Content Protect, K9, NetNanny, CYBERSitter, CyberPatrol, Cyber Sentinel, FilterPak, Cyber Snoop, etc.
3. Single Password
4. Occasionally check the cache and history
5. Tracking Software and Keylogger software
6. Internet Gateways (www.NetTrekker.com)

The 2007 TopTenReviews.com website rates the following software packages based upon ease of use, ease of setup, and filtering effectiveness.

1. ContentProtect
2. CyberSitter
3. NetNanny

Then, if you want to use more you can usually pay an extra fee with your current Internet Service Provider (ISP) and have them filter directly. Or you can use other services like www.hedgebuilders.com as an internet portal for all internet access.

Nothing replaces a well-informed parent for protecting their children on the internet. Internet filtering software can provide that added help for parents wanting to protect their children. When their eyes cannot be there, a parent can rely upon filtering software to slow down the problems that can arise from the internet content that is so easily accessible. Parents need to make sure they are involved in their children's lives, but especially when it comes to their internet lives. Know where they are and where they are surfing for their own good.

- **More websites and resources to check into:**

NETSMARTZ Created by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) has educational materials for parents.

Age-grouped materials for K-3, 4-8 and 9-12
Age-grouped pledge sheets for online use
See online: www.netsmartz.org/education/ut/

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NetSmartz was created by the NCMEC)
Online safety quiz for adults and children
Online terminology listing
CyberTipline – www.cybertipline.com
1-800-843-5678

www.isafe.org Designated as a non-profit and formed in 1998 to bring internet safety and education to the youth of the US. Great website and resource.
Classroom curriculum / Community outreach