

Internet Safety:

Dangers of Sexual Solicitations of Young Students

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Three Forms of Internet Violations:

- Sexual Solicitations and Approaches
- Unwanted Exposure to Sexual Material
- Harassment



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MySpace is a social networking website offering an interactive network of photos, blogs, user profiles, groups, and an internal e-mail system. As of January 2006 MySpace is the world's seventh most popular English language website, with over 50 million users.

The minimum age requirement is 14 years. Several million users have somewhere in the autobiographical section stated they were under 14, showing that MySpace has either taken little or no steps or ineffective ones to end the problem of underage users.

Case Examples

- Two 15 year old girls creating MySpace profiles
- Contacted by a 22 year old male
- Had online relationship for 2 weeks, then made arrangements to meet in person
- Suspect met the girls, brought them to his house and provided them with Tequila
- Suspect had intercourse with victim #1 in suspects bedroom while victim #2 was passed out on the couch
- Suspect then attempted to take victim #2 clothing off, but she woke up and ran out the door

Case II

- Female victim 16 years, met suspect 25 years on MySpace
- Online relationship developed, talked up to 3 hours nightly
- Suspect began asking victim about her physical development and wanted her to send photos in various stages of undress
- Victim agreed and was caught by her mother taking a picture of herself with most of her clothing off
- Suspect was arrested and was involved in the same scheme with 15 other teenage girls

Case III

- 15 year old female communicating with 18 year old friend of her brothers, flirting, sexual comments
- Victim and her friend met suspect and a friend, stopped to get alcohol and went to suspects house
- Both girls were intoxicated and went “hot tubbing”
- Suspect took victim’s top off in the hot tub and tried to take the bottom part of her suit off
- Victim left the hot tub and was taken home

Informal Survey

- 50-60% of middle school age kids have received unwanted sexual images on their computer while being online
- 60% of middle school age kids have had chatted with people they have never met
- 40% of middle school students knew of someone that has met someone offline that they first met online

A photograph of a brick wall with the text "The Internet...." written in white. The bricks are reddish-brown and arranged in a standard pattern. The text is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image. The wall is slightly out of focus, and there is a dark shadow in the bottom right corner.

The Internet....

Addressing the Issue

- Letters to parents advising of the popular websites and concerns about them
- Distribution of newspaper articles, cases examples
- Increase awareness to middle and high school students
- Community education through media
- Parent Education

Resources

www.netsmartz.org

www.missingkids.com

www.cybertipline.com

