



Internet Safety - Resources for Parents

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For parents, Internet safety is a big priority. The Florida Department of Education and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Missing Children Information Clearinghouse (FDLE MCIC) have been reviewing the content of several Internet Safety programs dedicated to keeping students safe while using the Internet. These include NetSmartz®, the Internet Keep Safe Coalition (iKeepSafe.org), i-SAFE America, and C-SAFE Cyber-Security Awareness.

NetSmartz® is an interactive, educational resource for children ages 5-17, parents, guardians, educators, and law enforcement that uses age-appropriate, 3-D activities to teach children how to stay safer on the Internet. The goal of NetSmartz is to extend the safety awareness of children to prevent victimization and increase self-confidence whenever they go online. These goals include how to enhance the ability of children to recognize dangers on the Internet, encourage children to report victimization to a trusted adult, support and enhance community education efforts, increase communication between adults and children about online safety, and enhance the ability of children to understand that people they first "meet" on the Internet should never be considered their friend. More information may be found at www.netsmartz.org/

iKeepSafe.org is a site produced by the Internet Keep Safe Coalition. The Internet Keep Safe Coalition is a partnership of first

ladies or governors, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and corporate sponsors determined to protect children from the growing threat of Internet predators. Among the many members of the coalition are the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the FBI Internet Crimes Taskforce, the American Medical Association, the U.S. Department of Justice Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce (ICAC), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Crime Prevention Council (McGruff the Crime Dog®), as well as corporate sponsors including Adobe, AOL, Bearing Point, Dell Inc. Disney, Intel, Siebel Systems, and Target. iKeepSafe.org is a state-supported educational program geared towards grade levels 1-4, that is designed to both raise awareness and provide materials to parents, teachers, and children. The program features "Faux Paw the Techno Cat" Internet instruction that uses children's books, public service announcements, and web materials to emphasize three simple easily remembered practices. The tag line, "Keep. Don't Meet. Tell." helps kids remember the basics of Internet safety:

1. KEEP their personal information protected. Never give their name, address, phone number, picture of self, or school name to anyone they meet online.
2. DON'T MEET with someone they've connected with online.
3. TELL a parent, teacher, or trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable about anything they see on the Internet. More information may be found at <http://iKeepsafe.org>.

i-SAFE America, Inc. is a nonprofit foundation whose mission is to educate and empower youth to safely and responsibly take control of their Internet experiences. Their goal is to provide students with the awareness and knowledge they need in order to recognize and avoid dangerous, destructive, or unlawful behavior and to respond appropriately. Founded in 1998, and designed as a proactive, prevention-oriented Internet safety awareness program, i-SAFE America provides K-12 students with the critical thinking and decision-making skills they need to recognize and avoid hazards in cyberspace and how to respond appropriately to those hazards. More information can be found at <http://i-safe.org>.

C-SAFE Cyber-Security Awareness for Everyone has three main goals:

1. to increase one's awareness about cyber-security issues and steps one can take to safeguard his/her network, computer and assets;
2. to share the latest information on state-of-the-art tools and techniques that will help reduce one's risk of becoming a victim of cybercrime; and finally,
3. to introduce one to a "virtual treasure trove" of online resources that can be found at the Secure Florida website <http://secureflorida.org>.

For additional information on these and other child safety programs please visit <http://www3.fdle.state.fl.us/MCICSearch/> or contact 1-888-FL Missing.

Effective October 1, 2006, Florida Statute 322.051 is amended.

House Bill 7079, was signed in to law by Governor Jeb Bush on June 22, 2006.

FS 322.051 Identification Cards

"Any person who is 5 years of age or older, or any person who has a disability, regardless of age, who applies for a disabled parking permit under s. 320.0848, may be issued an identification card by the department upon completion of an application and payment of an application fee."

This amendment to the statute lowers the age of identification (ID) cards available for children from 12 years of age to 5 years of age. The cost for these ID cards through DHSMV will be a

minimal fee of \$3.00. Florida Schools can feel free to encourage parents throughout the school year to take advantage of this accessible digital tool that may safeguard their children's lives.

This bill can be found in its entirety at:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h7079er.doc&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=7079&Session=2006>