The General Assembly has enacted new provisions of law that greatly increase the range of punishment facing those who victimize children. Now, those who entice or attempt to entice children face up to 30 years in prison!

A program about on-line safety is available through the Clay County Prosecuting Attorney's office.

To schedule someone from the prosecutor's office, contact the Community Relations Unit at (816) 736-8304 or via e-mail to: prosecutor@claycopa.com

"One of the most effective ways to fight crime is to make prospective victims aware of the crook's tricks and patterns. Education and awareness goes a long way in keeping children safe, and in easing a parent's worries."

— Daniel White

Daniel White
Clay County Prosecutor
11 S. Water Street
Liberty, Missouri 64068
(816) 736-8300

More information on on-line safety is available from your school resource officer as well as the prosecutor's office

On-line Safety Is Everyone's Business!

Keeping your child secure from on-line predators

Virtually all school children are on line and use computers home and at school.

In recent years we've seen instances where children have been accosted by on-line predators.

This information will help parents take steps to keep children safe.

Tips for Internet Safety

- ·Keep the Internet-connected computer in an open area frequented by parents; avoid putting the computer in the basement or in the child's room.
- Look over the child's shoulder when he or she is on-line. You wouldn't tolerate a child being abused or threatened on the telephone; the Internet should be no different.
- Discuss what "personal information" means. Let children know personal information is to stay private. With a little information and a few keystrokes in a search engine, predators can literally draw a map to your front door.
- View Xanga or MySpace or other free web and web log (or "blog") pages your child or teen has; make sure no identifiable personal information is listed.
- Acquire and use blocking software to block offensive on-line content. Also, acquire a firewall to provide protection against external efforts to access personal information.
- Determine how proficient your child's Internet skills are compared to yours. If your child knows how to flush an Internet cache and clear history files while you need help turning on the box, improving skills should be a priority. Public schools as well as community colleges offer excellent classes on using the computer and the Internet.
- Consider keystroke capture programs. Keystroke capture programs shadow use by unobtrusively logging all keystrokes made during a computer session.
- Check history and cache files as well as your child's "favorite sites" or "bookmarks" to determine if there is any objectionable content or contact.
- If you intercept communications from your child's "Internet friend" trying to schedule a face-to-face meeting and you do not know this person, alert police.
- Consider banning on-line chatting and instant messaging. It's through chatrooms and IMs predators create personal relationships with prospective victims. If not banned outright, closely monitor chatting and instant messaging.
- Instruct your children to use generic screen names and email addresses, and to provide no specific personal information in any profile.
- Often predators send cell phones or other electronic devices to hide their enticement efforts. Be suspicious if your child suddenly comes into possession of a cell phone or other electronic device which you didn't provide.
- Check cell phones for text messages and voice mails. Predators try to follow on-line contact up with calls and text messages.
- Monitor e-mail usage. Use e-mail accounts provided by your Internet service provider; avoid free e-mail accounts. Reputable ISPs have clear acceptable use policies and fully cooperate with police investigating any illegal activity.