

Child Cyber Protection Guide

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ACTION GUIDE CHILD CYBER ATTACK PREVENTION

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OUR VISION

Our vision is to provide a weekly, step-by-step guide to help people prepare before a given threat becomes a reality. We encourage you to print and keep a collection of these weekly guides and website information. We also suggest you keep your collection in a notebook in case there is a loss of the internet and power at the very time you need these guides. We believe as you consider these guidelines and prepare, you will gain the knowledge and skills to adapt to the anticipated threats.

These guides may not address every contingency but, being prepared for threats and disasters in general helps individuals gain the peace of mind that they have done what they can do to enhance their chances for safety, survival, and the well-being of their communities. This resource and comprehensive approach foster

resilience and prosperity in challenging times when many others may be caught off guard.

EXPERT: Our expert is LIZ MARIE THOMAS, writer and app producer to help increase family safety.

Liz Marie shares her strategy regarding Online Safety, Screen Habits, and Sextortion.

Sextortion is the most current threat to our youth. It is the term coined to explain the predatory extortion practices of those posing as a child's peer to gain trust and then solicits compromising photos only to then blackmail the child, who knows their family cannot afford the ransom or the scandal. Childhood suicide is on the rise because of this Online

TOPIC 1

HOW CYBER TRAFFICKING HAPPENS

1. Recruitment - Social Media and Online Platforms Traffickers often use social media sites, chat rooms, and online gaming platforms to identify and groom potential victims. They may pose as classmates, friends, or romantic interests to gain trust.

Fake Profiles - They create false identities to appear more appealing, often claiming to be someone of authority or wealth to entice victims.

Grooming - Building Trust Once a connection is made, traffickers spend time building a relationship with the victim, establishing emotional bonds and gaining their trust.

Isolation - They may try to isolate the victim from their friends and family, making them more dependent on the trafficker for emotional support and validation.

2. Exploitation - Coercion and Manipulation - Traffickers often use manipulation, threats, or coercion to exploit their victims. This can include emotional blackmail or financial manipulation.

Sex Trafficking - Victims may be forced into providing sexual services through online platforms, such as webcam sites or social media. **Labor Trafficking** - Some victims may be coerced into performing labor online, such as scamming others, creating content, or engaging in other forms of exploitation.

3. Control - Monitoring and Surveillance - Traffickers may monitor victims' online activities, controlling their interactions and movements to prevent them from seeking help.

Use of Technology - Traffickers often use technology to maintain control, including the use of GPS tracking, spyware, or other digital tools to keep tabs on their victims.

4. Payment – Blackmail and Transactions Cryptocurrency and Anonymous Payments - Traffickers may use cryptocurrencies and blackmail against parents or other anonymous payment methods to receive payments for exploited services, making it harder for authorities to trace transactions.

Online Marketplaces - Some traffickers may sell services or images of victims through dark web marketplaces or other illicit platforms.

TOPIC 2

HOW CYBER TRAFFICKING WORKS

1. Network Connections Traffickers often operate within networks, connecting with other criminals to share resources, victims, and methods of exploitation.

2. Advertising Victims - Exploited individuals may be advertised on various online platforms, including adult websites, social media, or even through direct messaging.

3. Victimization Cycle - Victims may become trapped in a cycle of exploitation, where they feel they have no escape due to threats, emotional manipulation, or financial dependency.

4. Prevention and Awareness - To combat cyber trafficking, it is crucial for individuals and parents to be aware of the signs of

exploitation, maintain open communication, and educate children about online safety.

By understanding how cyber trafficking operates, communities can take steps to protect vulnerable individuals and support victims. Create “get away” phrases such as, “You’ll have to excuse me, it is time for me to check in with my.” Or “I’m expected to meet with right now.” And “My has a safety program installed on all my devices.”

TOPIC 3

EDUCATE YOURSELF & YOUR CHILDREN

1. Understand the Risks - Research human and cyber trafficking to understand how it occurs, common tactics used by traffickers, and the signs to watch for.

2. Discuss with Your Children - Have open conversations with your children about the dangers of trafficking. Use age-appropriate language to explain what trafficking is and how they can recognize unsafe situations.

3. Monitor Online Activity and Set Up Parental Controls - Use software or tools that help monitor and limit your child's online activity. This can include setting filters on websites and monitoring social media usage. One good choice is AURA.

4. Educate on Privacy Settings - Teach your children about privacy settings on social media platforms and encourage them to keep their profiles private.

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TOPIC 4

ESTABLISH SAFE ONLINE PRACTICES

- 1. Be Cautious with Personal Information** - Teach your children to never share personal information (address, school, phone number) online.
- 2. Stranger Danger Online** - Reinforce that not everyone online is who they claim to be, especially when AI can generate erroneous images and profiles. Encourage them to be skeptical of strangers and to never meet someone in person without parental consent.
- 3. Empower Decision Making** - Encourage your children to make decisions for themselves, fostering independence while ensuring they know they can always come to you for help.
- 4. Encourage Healthy Relationships** - Discuss Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships Teach your children about the qualities of healthy friendships and relationships, helping them to identify red flags in relationships that might lead to trafficking.

TOPIC 5

PROMOTE OPEN COMMUNICATION

- 1. Create a Trusting Environment** - Encourage your children to talk to you, or someone they trust about anything that makes them uncomfortable, whether it's something they encountered online or in real life. Blended families need to welcome dialogue with the child's other family to determine who is trustworthy in all areas of the child's life including church, school, sports and other extracurricular activities and the online relationships with those entities.
- 2. Regular Check Ins** - Schedule regular discussions about their online interactions and experiences, making it a routine part of your relationship.

3. Encourage Critical Thinking - Teach Them to Think Critically
Help your children develop critical thinking skills to evaluate situations, especially online. Discuss scenarios where they might need to be cautious.

4. Role-Playing - Practice role-playing different scenarios where they might encounter risky situations, both online and in person.

5. Know the Signs of Trafficking - Recognize Warning Signs
Cyber trafficking, a form of human trafficking that occurs online, involves the exploitation of individuals, often through the internet and digital technology. Familiarize yourself and your children with the signs that someone might be a victim of trafficking, such as sudden changes in behavior, secrecy, and unexplained absences. Pay attention to your child's demeanor at the mention of a person's name or an activity. They may not have the words to describe an uncomfortable or unsafe feeling.

6. Discuss Reporting Mechanisms - Make sure your children know how to report suspicious behavior or if they feel threatened.

TOPIC 6

BUILD A SUPPORT NETWORK

Connect with Other Parents and Vetted people the Child agrees to
- Join or create a network with other parents to share information and resources on keeping children safe from trafficking. If the child is uncomfortable with the adult, you need to investigate. Some predators pose as child advocates.

Engage with Community Resources - Get involved with local organizations that focus on preventing trafficking and supporting victims.

Stay Informed and Adapt - Keep Up with Trends
Stay updated on the latest trends in trafficking and how traffickers exploit technology. This knowledge can help you adapt your strategies to keep your children safe.

Review and Revise Safety Plans Regularly - Review your safety plans and strategies with your children and make changes as necessary.

Teach Self-Defense and Empowerment - Self-Defense Classes
Consider enrolling your children in self-defense classes to boost their confidence and teach them how to protect themselves in dangerous situations.

In summary, by following these steps, parents can create a safer environment for their children both online and offline, significantly reducing the risk of human and cyber trafficking.

TOPIC 7 **RECEIVE PEACE**

In our opinion, those who know the Bible will deal with stress completely differently than those who do not. There are several reasons for that. First, the bible is full of prophecies foretelling the birth and mission of Jesus to make peace between God and mankind in addition to his return to set up a kingdom of His peace.

Jesus came and fulfilled the prophecies of his birth, death, and resurrection. Christians have a great deal of evidence that he will keep his promise to return and ultimately establish worldwide peace. The well-known Christmas prophecy hundreds of years before his birth in Isaiah 9:6 identified Jesus as the Prince of Peace. He offers that peace to you today if you but ask (John 14:27).

Prophecies are comforting and stress reducing because they come from a loving Higher Power that is communicating with his people what to expect. Prophecies for the Christian tell the nature of the times in which Jesus was, is and will be.

This Guide was designed to help us all understand how to be prepared for hardship and crisis. Part of that preparation is to do your part to support the local storehouse that helps people in need, otherwise known as the local church and other organizations.

Believers know the importance of this principal from the example of Joseph in the Old Testament storing up goods in the storehouse. If you do your part to support your local church, God promises to protect the remainder of your supplies in Malachi 3:10-18. That should give you some peace as well.

Jesus is the way to the Father & Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Do not be sad or afraid. Believe in God and believe in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. I will go now so that I can prepare a place for you there. If it was not true, I would not have told you this. After I have prepared a place for you, I will return. Then I will take you so that you will be with me. You will be where I am. I will go away but I will give you a gift of peace. It is mine to give and yours to keep. It is not like a gift that this world gives. Do not let yourselves be sad. Do not be afraid. You heard me say to you, “I will go away, but I will return to you.” (EEV)

For greater detail review our Spiritual Action Guide.

NOTES

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