

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM CYBER TRAFFICKING ACTION GUIDE

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 fosters 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 entrapment.

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Mrs. Thomas discusses her new program and app that helps mitigate online predators called, The Collection Family App. She has a comprehensive program to help the child's collection of loved ones be trained on how to support the child in real time as they face a world where they are a target of online predators. You can hear her passion for protecting children on the WWT Podcast at <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1040163416>.

Her husband, Noel Thomas is co-founder of Dark Watch, a cyber protections services company aimed at diminishing human trafficking. He was also a featured guest on The Worldwide Threat. Access Mr. Thomas's WWT WATCH WWT PODCAST <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1033284403>

Together this couple have the right and left cyber punch to take down those who threaten our most vulnerable loved ones.

INTRODUCTION:

This step-by-step guide is intended to help parents how to understand and protect their children from human and cyber trafficking:



HOW CYBER TRAFFICKING HAPPENS

Topic One

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.

Notes



HOW CYBER TRAFFICKING HAPPENS

Topic One

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.

Notes



HOW CYBER TRAFFICKING HAPPENS

Topic One

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.

Notes



HOW CYBER TRAFFICKING WORKS

Topic Two

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.”



This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



EDUCATE YOURSELF AND YOUR CHILDREN

Topic Three

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.

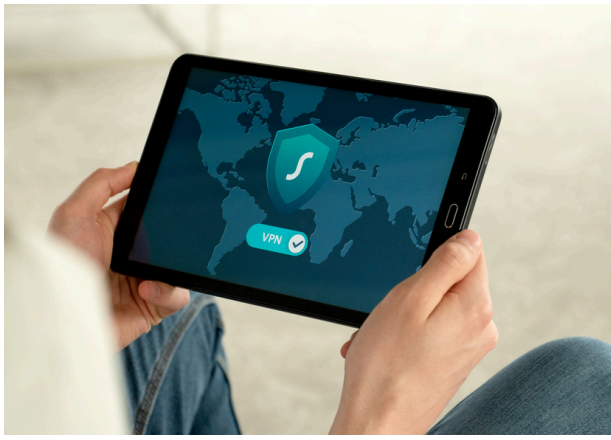
3. Monitor Online Activity and Set Up Parental Controls

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 www.Bark.us

4. Educate on Privacy Settings

Teach your children about privacy settings on social media platforms and encourage them to keep their profiles private.

Notes



ESTABLISH SAFE ONLINE PRACTICES

Topic Four

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.

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PROMOTE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Topic Five

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.

Role-Playing

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



PROMOTE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Topic Five

4. 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.

Discuss Reporting Mechanisms

Make sure your children know how to report suspicious behavior or if they feel threatened.

Notes



BUILD A SUPPORT NETWORK

Topic Six

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.

2. 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.

Notes



BUILD A SUPPORT NETWORK

Topic Six

4. 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.

Notes



PEACE & SPIRITUAL LIVING

Topic Seven

Peace could be very elusive during a worldwide threat because of the stress any individual threat would create in one's life. Let alone if these threats appear in clusters or simultaneously, as often is the case. Dealing with stress is very important during times of personal relationship problems, financial, health, and survival issues. Successful stress management and remaining clear headed could make the difference in your survival.

More than stress management, maintaining your peace during a disaster could prove to be more valuable than the gold you stored to barter with. Having peace can help your family, friends, and all of those around you that are in a critical situation to survive in an abundant way.

Peace is directly associated with spirituality. If you have not considered spirituality, now would be the time to develop it while we are in a relatively peaceful time. Seeking a Higher Power for peace makes sense since when so many things will be out of your control during a worldwide threat.

Believing Jews look to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to bring them peace. Prophecies of the Messiah help the Jews focus on God as their victor and keeper. For Jews, their bible predicts the coming of the Messiah who will protect them and establish his forever kingdom.



PEACE & SPIRITUAL LIVING

Topic Seven

Those who know the Jesus of the Christian 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.

If you are encouraged by the WorldwideThreat.com please consider visiting www.LiveInThePresence.com. We produced a video series called ***Living in the Presence***. These shows were produced in different places in the world and primarily show how people in difficult and life-threatening situations live a life of peace and prosperity in many ways.



PEACE & SPIRITUAL LIVING

Topic Seven

To be part of the Worldwide Threat Family is to understand how to be prepared for the threats. 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. Both Jews and Christians 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.

If you are not walking in peace, we can help you by introducing you to Jesus and giving you free information that will help. We welcome you to contact us by phone **888-391-0354**, email at info@theworldwidethreat.com or text at **828-330-4883** and we will be glad to discuss all of this.

We hope to see you next Thursday for latest instalment of the Worldwide Threat. Until then, we will leave you with one last thought.

Jesus says in John 14:1-3, 27-28;

Jesus is the way to the Father

14 Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Do not be sad or afraid. Believe in God, and also believe in me. **2** 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. **3** 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...**27** 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. **28** You heard me say to you, “I will go away, but I will return to you.” (EEV)

Disclaimer: The ideas and suggestions in these guides are not meant to provide professional advice. We suggest you communicate with professionals in all areas to design and prepare for any threats you or your family may face. These guides and information is provided free for you to share with friends and family but may not be copied or used for commercial or business use without our written permission.

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