

Technology Safety for Teens



Did You Know That Smartphone Dating Applications Can Be Dangerous?



- While dating apps such as Tinder can be a great way to meet new friends or potential dating partners, ***if used incorrectly these sites can also be extremely dangerous!***
- ***Watch Out!*** Because you are first meeting the person through your smartphone, there is no way to make sure that the person behind the profile is really the person they claim to be.
- ***Danger!*** Many of these apps also contain an instant tracking device, which can detect potential matches even within one-mile radius. ***In general, if your GPS setting is on, people can track your location. There are privacy settings where you can turn your GPS location off.***
- ***Beware!*** If you or your friends plan on using a dating app and meeting someone in person bring friends along and make sure people know your whereabouts for safety!
- ***Respect Yourself And Your Body!*** Often times, certain dating apps have become known for a place to meet “hook up buddies.” Always remember that ***respect*** and ***consent*** are the most important parts of any relationship. ***If you do not feel comfortable or are pressured to do anything against your consent, this is abuse!***
- **How to Use Dating Apps in a Healthy Way:** Make sure you have mutual friends and mutual interests with the other person and if you do decide to meet them in person, meet in a public place.

The Most Frequently Used Forms Of Social Media:

What You Need To Know To Protect Yourself

- **Facebook:** of the options on Facebook is to “tag” others in your photos. Make sure that you are not getting tagged in any photos that are inappropriate, such pictures with alcohol (this includes red solo cups) or other illegal drugs.
- **Twitter:** While tweeting, make sure that your tweets are appropriate and do not contain anything with alcohol or any other illegal substance.
- **Pinterest:** If used in a healthy way, Pinterest is a great way to express your passions for different subject such as crafting and decorating. As with any form of social media, make sure the pictures on your Pinterest account are appropriate
- **Tumblr:** Tumblr has become a very quick easy way to blog about your interests. ***Be aware that many users post adult content to and often times the site can reinforce negative teen behaviors. If you see any of these on Tumblr or any other social media site, be sure to notify the site, your parent, and/or any other trusted adult.***
- **YouTube:** While YouTube videos are very fun to watch, especially with friends and family, ***you should be aware that YouTube does not watch the videos before they are posted. There might be pornographic, violent or inappropriate content through video postings, video comments or commercials. If you see this sort of content on social media, you should report this immediately!***
- **Instagram:** This smartphone is great for sharing pictures and keep your friends and family up-to-date with what you’re eating, what you’re wearing, etc. For safety, be sure to only follow and accept people you know, particularly if the pictures show your location (this is true with any social media site as well).
- **Snapchat:** This app can be great for taking “selfies.” However, there are serious risks with using this app. ***While the “snaps” are not permanent, anyone can take a screen shot (picture) on their smartphone, save it, and share the photo with others.***
- **iCloud:** This new service stores pictures and music so that you can access all of your saved information from your phone, computer, or tablet. ***You should be aware that any inappropriate picture taken with an apple product backed up by iCloud is permanent and has the potential to be hacked.***
- **Kik:** is an instant messaging application for mobile devices including IOS, Android, and Windows Phone operating systems. With Kik, you can send and receive an unlimited number of messages, images, videos and more to anyone who has an account. ***You should be aware of the many reports of graphic images, sexualized discussions and predator-like behavior taking place on Kik.***



Tips For Keeping You And Your Friends Safe On Social Media:

- One of the most important things can do with all the technology out there is ***to create and maintain a positive reputation online.***
- A positive reputation means that your social media site is free from images or words that might hurt your reputation. ***Others DO check social media, so what you post now can have a large effect on your future!***
- As a general rule of thumb...the only things that should be posted on any form of technology or social media site are items your family members would approve of.
- ***Continue to learn about new social media.*** As technology advances, new apps appear. By following the social media trend, you will know how to keep yourself and your friends protected.
- Once you know the risks, have an open and honest discussion with your parents or guardians about ways you can keep yourself safe with technology and social media.
- Remember that ***if used correctly, social media can be a great tool!*** As long as you are posting articles, photos and videos that are appropriate you can learn a lot and help educate others on topics you are interested in.

The Importance of Privacy Settings:



- Every social media site and mobile app has privacy settings available.
- For instructions on privacy settings, look at the privacy settings on social media page websites as well. You can also look at the user manuals for technological devices (such as the iPhone or Android).

*As of December 2014 – Family Violence Prevention Council

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