

TIPS FOR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

What you are about to read could save your child's or grandchild's life. This is the real thing. The sexualization today's culture is exacting a lethal toll in our children's lives today. Here are some research facts regarding how our children are dying:

STD Explosion: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control states that 26% of American girls between 14-19, now carry at least one STD. Some STDs are incurable; some are fatal.

Suicide: The Heritage Foundation reports that when teens are sexually active and then break up, girls are 3X more likely to commit suicide; boys are 8X more likely. Are your kids dating?

Kidnap: *One* police officer from *one* St. Louis suburban jurisdiction told us that in an 18 month period, she'd made 52 arrests involving adults attempting to make contacts with kids, for sexual purposes. Next time you hear of a child who disappeared, think about this.

We want to help you protect your kids. Please understand, your kids are growing up in a world that is **massively** different than the one in which you grew up. Here are some tips from the *National Coalition*.

1. Put **Internet filters** onto every computer in the house, to keep porn out of the home. We have researched several filters. Check them out at www.nationalcoalition.org.
2. Never allow your kids to use the webcam on a computer, unless you are present.
3. Regularly check all computers — monitor their histories to see where they've been. If the history has been erased, you have a problem. Ask why it has been erased.
4. Watch for warning signs such as a) telephone calls from unknown people or phone numbers; or b) your child receiving gifts, mail or packages from people unknown to parents.
5. If you find porn on your computer, find out where it came from, and who ordered it or sent it.
6. Visit the FBI website — read their safety tips: www.fbi.gov.
7. **Keep all computers in open spaces** like kitchens, with screens facing the open room where anyone can see what's going on.
8. Keep all computers, televisions, cell phones, and anything that can reach the Internet, **out** of children's bedrooms.
9. Require that all cell phones be left in the kitchen overnight for recharging, **not** in children's bedrooms.
10. Teach your children about the dangers of Internet and cell phone use.
11. Warn your children about social networking places such as "MySpace," chat rooms, etc. Teach them to **never** give personal information such as name, address, phone number, e-address, their school's name, etc. And never, ever have "secret" friendships with strangers on the net.
12. Teach them that texting with strangers can be even more dangerous than being on social networking sites with strangers, because it's more isolated.
13. Be aware that the average age of exposure to porn today is 11 years of age, and that 80% of first-time exposure to pornography is unintentional — coming through the Internet.
14. Be aware that porn producers are now targeting children between ages 5-9.

15. Get and study the National Coalition's booklet series titled, "***What Every Parent Needs To Know***" (purchase through www.nationalcoalition.org).
16. If your kids are in public schools, become a *strong and unyielding advocate* for morality-based sex education. Attend PTO meetings; speak with teachers, administrators and school board members.
17. Get to know your kids' friends, their parents, their home life, and their values.
18. Get all porn out of the home
 - a. Get rid of any/all magazines, books, pictures, videos, DVDs etc., that are pornographic.
 - b. Block TV channels that run PG-13, R or X rated movies.
 - c. Closely monitor *all* cell phone call numbers on every monthly statement.
19. Read "***Sex and Cell Phones***" available at www.nationalcoalition.org. **Also**, be aware that research has found that 18% of boys, and 22% of girls, have sent naked pictures of themselves, over cell phones, to their boyfriends or girlfriends. It's called "sexting" and is irretrievable once on the net.
20. If you're struggling with porn:
Go to www.everymansbattle.com — it's a very helpful website with lots of links.
21. Morality and the Media offers excellent resources about the dangers of pornography and what individuals can do through the law to protect their communities and children. MIM also works to maintain standards of decency on TV and in other media.
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 239, New York, NY 10115
Phone: 1-212-870-3222 Fax: 1-212-870-2765
www.moralityinmedia.org

If you need accountability regarding your computer use, try *Covenant Eyes.com* and link onto their accountability software.

If you need personal help or have other issues you'd like to discuss, contact the National Coalition — call or write us. Here's our contact information.

The National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families
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Or call the free Confidential Helpline: 1-800-583-2964 (8:30 a.m. ~ 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time Zone)

We are grateful to Dr. John Splinter, St. Louis Executive Director of The National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families, for the above information.