

Summit County
Children's Justice Center



INTERNET SAFETY FOR YOUTH DURING COVID-19 – 03/30/2020

Dear Families:

Due to the challenges of the COVID-19 Stay-at-Home orders and school closures, young people are more vulnerable to child exploitation by predators on the internet. More than ever children are feeling bored, isolated, and in need of social interaction. Here are some resources and valuable information to ensure your children stay safe.

- Monitor your child or teen's online activity. Request their passwords, set limits to the online activities outside of school, and ask them who they are talking to. **MONITOR ALL SOCIAL MEDIA, WEBSITES, and CELL PHONE CHATS.**
- Talk to your children about safety. Many predators begin exploiting young people with seemingly benign conversations. These can slowly turn sexual. Talk to your children about their private parts using appropriate terminology (vagina, penis, breasts, buttocks). Develop a safety plan with your child/family if a child is asked to video or take pictures of those areas by anyone **OR** if anyone sends them inappropriate, sexualized pictures **OR** if anyone asks to meet your child. This includes calling law enforcement. Do **NOT** blame or shame your child! These are difficult times.
- **To our young people:** Talk to your friends about what they are doing online. If you suspect a friend or someone you know is talking with an unknown person and your friend is being asked personal, sexualized questions, is asked to send inappropriate pictures or videos, is receiving inappropriate images, is being bullied, or is being threatened - tell a trusted adult of your concerns. If your trusted adult does not listen, find another trusted adult! **HELP US HELP YOUR FRIENDS.**
- FREE CYBER SAFETY RESOURCES: <https://www.tripwire.com/state-of-security/security-awareness/free-cyber-safety-resources-during-covid-19/>
- If you have questions, please call or email Christina Sally, Ph.D., Investigator, Summit County Attorney's Office (435) 615-3829; csally@summitcounty.org. To report any suspicious activities or suspicions of cybercrimes, please call:
Summit County Sheriff's Office: (435) 615-3500
Park City Police Department: (435) 615-5500