



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of Minnesota*

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(612) 664-5600

September 14, 2012

Dear Principal/Administrator/Parent:

With the 2012-2013 school year now underway, the United States Attorney's Office would like your help in protecting Minnesota students from a variety of hazards they face online.

Unfortunately, it is not just middle-school or high-school children at risk, but children in elementary school as well. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's publication "Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later," 13 percent of elementary-aged children have received some type of sexual solicitation or approach through the Internet. In Minnesota, 13 percent amounts to more than 57,000 of the 438,000 elementary-aged children.

Because we cannot speak to every child, we are hoping you will copy and send the enclosed Online Safety Tips as well as this letter home with your elementary and middle-school students. As you can see, some of the tips are for parents, while others are for the students themselves. You can also find an electronic copy of the Online Safety Tips on our website: <http://www.justice.gov/usao/mn>

We hope parents, guardians, and care givers in your school district will talk about Internet safety with their children, so every child in Minnesota will be better protected from online predators. We appreciate your assistance in this endeavor. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Laura Provinzino, our Project Safe Childhood Coordinator, at 612-664-5781 or [laura.provinzino@usdoj.gov](mailto:laura.provinzino@usdoj.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Todd Jones".

B. TODD JONES  
United States Attorney  
District of Minnesota

Enclosure.

## **Internet, Mobile Phones, and Texting Safety Tips for Parents**

- Do teach your child not to post identifying information on the Internet.
- Do set a limit for how much time your child can spend online.
- Do keep the computer in a public room in the house. Do not have an Internet-connected computer in your child's bedroom.
- Do utilize parental controls provided by your Internet Service Provider and/or blocking software. (Contact your Internet ISP if you have questions).
- Do talk to your children about purchasing "in app" products.
- Do talk to your child about using any location services on their device.
- Do periodically review your child's computer, emails and messages. You should have all of your children's passwords.
- Do spend time with your child online. Have them show you their favorite online destinations. Get to know your child's online friends as you would their real-life friends. Learn to navigate the web.
- Do know who they text and email. Most providers have online ways to identify frequent contacts so you can see if someone new appears as a contact.
- Do monitor your child's access to the Internet and texting.
- Do talk to your child about the danger of Internet predators.
- Do watch for unexplained changes in your child's behavior.
- Do NOT hesitate to seek help from law enforcement if you think a predator may be targeting your child.

For more helpful Internet safety information, please visit [www.netismartz.org](http://www.netismartz.org). Netismartz.org has age appropriate videos, activities, and information for students in elementary school, middle school, and high school.