Internet Safety

A GUIDE FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Provided by Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson



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Dear Parents and Teachers,

The Internet has become the most powerful communication tool of our time and is rapidly changing how we interact, share information



and conduct business. That is doubly true for our tech-savvy children, however, even with all its benefits, the virtual world can be a gateway for predators, bullying and informational content not suitable for our children.

To help keep kids safe while online, we are offering this easy-to-follow e-booklet that offers strategies for monitoring online usage and utilizing child safety features on computers, mobile devices, games and social media. Please take a moment to bookmark this page as a handy reference tool so that you can stay ahead of the Internet curve.

Sincerely,

JalynBonson

Jocelyn Benson Michigan Secretary of State



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Updated 7/10/2019

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THE AGE OF DIGITAL PARENTING



A New Era for Parenting

As parents, one of our most important jobs is keeping our children safe and healthy. We worry about them on their first day of school, when they get their driver's license and when we drop them off at college. It is our role to teach them common sense and how to live cautiously so that dangerous situations can be avoided. Simple warnings about strangers no longer go far enough. With the Internet, parents now have a whole new world to navigate – a difficult task

since the digital playing field is constantly changing.

This e-booklet includes tips on setting rules for online use along with information on social media platforms that are becoming increasingly popular with kids. Keep in mind that your child probably already knows more



about the Internet than you do. The information in this booklet is designed to help you stay ahead of the curve so your child can safely experience the online world.





"The way we talk to our children becomes their inner voice." – Peggy O'Mara, author





HAVING THE "TALK"



Having the "talk" about online safety

AGE APPROPRIATE TIPS

It is never too early to talk to kids about Internet safety. These days, children as young as pre-school age are using tablets, cell phones and computers. Parents who talk about safe Internet use with their children on a regular basis are more likely to have kids who understand what is expected of them online. The following tips include simple suggestions for having that dialogue and how to establish good parameters for your child's online experience.

2 – 8 years old

- Sit with your child and supervise them closely while on the device.
- Set clear rules for length of computer time and what sites/apps are appropriate to visit. Allow him or her to only use bookmarked sites. This is a good way to control what sites they can visit.
- Talk about "strangers" that are online and why it is important to not give out any personal information or chat with them in any form.
- Go to <u>www.netsmartzkids.org</u> for some short, fun videos and ebooks for this age group regarding specific subjects on Internet safety.

Great Resource



Having the "talk" about online safety

9 – 12 years old

- Keep the computer in a common area.
- Talk to your kids about cyberbullying. Just like on the playground, there are bullies in the digital world. Help them understand the consequences of saying hurtful things online.
- Set clear rules about what is appropriate to post online in regards to pictures, language, personal information, etc. Talk to them about the longevity of their actions and how it may affect them in the future.
- Explain the consequences of file sharing and downloading music, games and movies.
- Make sure your kids check with you before purchasing or downloading anything on the Internet.
- Tell them to never share their passwords except with you.
- Let them know to never open an email from a stranger because it may contain a virus and harm the computer.
- Ask them to tell you immediately if a stranger contacts them online.
- As a parent, you should be knowledgeable of the social networking sites your child uses. In fact, it is good idea to join these sites to learn know how they work and to monitor your child's activity.
- Have your entire family sign a <u>"Family Internet Safety Contract."</u>

13 – 18 years old

- Follow all of the above.
- Talk to your teens about the dangers of online gambling and other illegal and harmful activities that can be done online (prescription drugs, pornography, tobacco and alcohol sites).





Although 71 percent of parents said they talked to their children about online behavior, only 44 percent of children agreed that they had.

– Pew Internet Research



FIVE THINGS TO DO TODAY TO PROTECT CHILDREN WHEN THEY GO ONLINE



ProtectMiChild

Five Things Parents Can Do Today

STEP 1: PROTECT CONTACT POINTS

Register with the **Michigan Child Protection Registry** and help protect your family's email addresses, cell phone numbers and instant messenger ID's from companies that market alcohol, tobacco, pornography,

online gambling and illegal drugs. It is fast, safe and FREE! Go to

Great Resource

www.Protectmichild.com.



STEP 2: ENABLE SAFE SEARCH MODE

Turn on the **Safe Searches** feature in your search engine. Google, Bing and YouTube have built-in safety features that prevent inappropriate sites and content from appearing on the sceen when your child conducts a search.



Safe Search Instructions



Great Resource

Visit the **Search Settings** page at <u>www.google.com/preferences</u>.

- In the SafeSearch filters section, check the box next to Filter explicit results to filter sexually explicit video and images from Google Search result pages, as well as results that might link to explicit content.
- Make sure to click the **Save** button at the bottom of the page.
- If signed into a Google account, parents can lock the SafeSearch filter so others don't change it. Simply click on Lock SafeSearch.

	Game		
1	Search Settings		
	Search results Languages Location	SafeSearch filters Turn on SafeSearch to filter sexually explicit content from your search results. Filter explicit results. Lock SafeSearch	



Safe Search Instructions





Go to <u>http://www.bing.com/preferences.aspx</u>.

• In the **Safe Search** section, click **Strict Filter** to filter out adult text, images and videos.

-		bing
	Settings	NEWS PERSONALIZATION WORLDWIDE
	GENERAL WEB	NEWS PERSONALI
	SafeSearch Filter adult content Strict Moderate Off	from your search results. Filter out adult text, images, and videos from your search results. Filter adult images and videos but not text from your search results. Don't filter adult content from your search results.



Safe Search Instructions



Great Resource

Go to <u>Youtube.com</u>.

- Scroll down to the bottom of the page.
- Look for a tab that says **Safety**.
- Click the arrow and a drop down menu will appear.
- Click **On** and **Save**.

You Tube	Language: English V	Country: Worldwide 💌	Safety: Off Help Help		× bid most inappropriate
Safety mod • Safety mod content. • Safety m • Safety m	e vde hides videos that may contain in ode also enables Google SafeSear vode will be enabled everywhere yo	appropriate content flagged by us ch, and turning it off will disable Gr use YouTube with this account.	oogle SafeSearch.	10% accurate, but it should help you avr	
Save					



Safe Search Instructions

YOUTUBE KIDS



Go to Kids.Youtube.com.

- Download the app.
- Tap the **Lock** icon in the bottom corner of any page in the app.
- Read and enter the numbers that appear or enter your custom passcode.
- Select **Settings**. From here you can customize their account.





STEP 3: ENABLE CHILD SAFETY FEATURES

Check your computer for **child safety features.** Most computers already have parental controls and filters built-in.

Updated 7/10/2019



Enable Child Safety Features

HOW TO SET UP SAFETY FEATURES



CLICK THE LINK FOR STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

- MAC COMPUTERS
- <u>iPHONE</u>
- <u>iPAD</u>
- <u>iTUNES</u>
- <u>WINDOWS COMPUTER</u>
- ANDROID
- <u>XBOX</u>
- <u>XBOX 1</u>
- PLAYSTATION_PS4





STEP 4: INSTALL A FILTER (FREE)

Install a web **filter**. This is a program that screens an incoming web page to determine whether some or all of it should not be displayed to the user. There are several free filters online that are available to download. Here are just a few:

<u>K9 WEB FILTER</u> K9 Web Protection is a free Internet filter and parental control software for your home Windows or Mac computer. K9 puts YOU in control of the Internet so you can protect your kids.

<u>QUSTODIO</u> Qustodio is available for the Mac, Android, iOS, Kindle and Nook. The free version covers the basics, enabling you to set rules and time schedules, block pornography and other unsuitable content. The paid-for version adds SMS monitoring, social media features and per-app controls.

<u>Open DNS FAMILY SHIELD</u> FamilyShield is a free service from OpenDNS. Its parental control tools automatically block domains that OpenDNS has flagged under the headings "tasteless, proxy/anonymizer, sexuality, or pornography." FamilyShield can run on PCs and mobile devices or you can apply it to your network router and filter all the traffic that passes through it.

<u>KIDLOGGER</u> This free parental control software tracks what children type, which websites they visit and keeps a record of the programs they use and any screengrabs they take. If you're concerned about whom your kids might be talking to online, there's a voice-activated sound recorder. This free software only covers one device and lacks some of the sneakier features of the premium editions (including silent monitoring of WhatsApp conversations and the ability to listen to phone calls), but it's still a well-rounded tool if you're concerned about your kids' safety.

<u>ZOODLES</u> Filtering adult content is obviously a good thing, but there's plenty of adult-oriented stuff that can still scare younger children. Zoodles addresses this by combining a filtering service along with a "walled garden" where kids can get a sampling of content appropriate for their age and skill level without the risk of anything awful popping up. Zoodles works for Windows, Mac, Android and iOS.



STEP 4: INSTALL A FILTER (FOR PURCHASE)

<u>CIRCLE WITH DISNEY</u> Circle With Disney is a great all-in-one filter to keep your family safe. It manages all of your home's connected devices. With this tool, parents can Filter content, limit screen time and set a bedtime for every device in the home. For \$99 you can buy the device, which looks like a small, white box that works alongside your home's router. Circle Go extends all of Circle's settings on your home Wi-Fi to your kid's mobile device 4G connections, and any other Wi-Fi network they join, giving you control no matter how they're connected (\$9.99/month for up to 10 devices).

<u>MOBICIP</u> Parents can setup and enable Mobicip on their family's mobile devices and computers and then remotely manage settings, monitor internet and app usage from an easy web-based monitor dashboard. Mobicip replaces the browser on mobile platforms, like Chrome (Android), Safari (iOS) and Chromebooks. This filter will cover up to five devices for \$39.99/year.

<u>NET NANNY</u> Families can use Net Nanny to protect children from pornography, online predators, cyberbullying, and other threats that compromise online safety. Net Nanny filters, monitors and blocks unsafe materials while allowing kids access to the Internet. Net Nanny scans and analyzes each website to determine if it is appropriate for your child, based on your unique customization.





63 percent of teens said they know how to hide what they do online from their parents.

Harris Interactive-McAfee
 Study 2008



STEP 5: TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT ONLINE SAFETY

Parenting in the digital world is a challenge. A parent cannot possibly be everywhere at once.

In order to help keep kids safe while online, parents need to get educated and talk openly about issues kids may face on the Internet and social media.







"The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence." – Denis Waitley, author



CHAPTER FOUR

SOCIAL MEDIA SAFEGUARDS THAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW



Social Media Safeguards FACEBOOK

Key Tip: Learn how <u>Facebook</u> works, be a participant on Facebook and make sure the privacy settings are activated.

- Parents who are first-time Facebook users should initiate a dialogue with their child who is already using the site. Ask how to set up an account and how to use it.
- Parents should also insist that their children be "friends" with them. This enables parents to see what their child is posting on Facebook.
- Advise children to think before posting a status, picture or video. Have them ask themselves, "Is this something I want my parent, teacher or future employer seeing?"
- Talk about cyberbullying and how it affects others. Parents should tell their children to come to them if they are being bullied online or if someone is making them feel uncomfortable.
- And give children these absolute rules:
 - Never post personal information on Facebook (phone number, address, location and inappropriate pictures, videos and posts).
 - Do not to share their password with anyone except a parent.
 - Only accept friend requests from people they know.

TURN ON PRIVACY SETTINGS: Turn on Facebook's privacy settings (see following screen shots).



Who can see my stuff?	Who can see your future posts?	Friends	Edit
	Review all your posts and things you're tagged in		Use Activity Log
	Limit the audience for posts you've shared with friends of friends or Public?		Limit Past Posts
Who can contact me?	Who can send you friend requests?	Friends of Friends	Edit
	Whose messages do I want filtered into my Inbox?	Strict Filtering	Edit
Who can look me up?	Who can look you up using the email address you provided?	Everyone	Edit
	Who can look you up using the phone number you provided?	Everyone	Edit
	Do you want other search engines to link to your timeline?	Yes	Edit

Facebook Privacy Setting

Who can add things to my timeline?	Who can post on your timeline?	Only Me	Edit
	Review posts friends tag you in before they appear on your timeline?	On	Edit
Who can see things on my timeline?	Review what other people see on your timeline		View As
	Who can see posts you've been tagged in on your timeline?	Friends	Edit
	Who can see what others post on your timeline?	Friends	Edit
How can I manage tags people add and tagging suggestions?	Review tags people add to your own posts before the tags appear on Facebook?	On	Edit
	When you're tagged in a post, who do you want to add to the audience if they aren't already in it?	Friends	Edit
	Who sees tag suggestions when photos that look like you are uploaded?	Friends	Edit





Facebook Privacy Setting

f Search for people, pl	aces and things		Q	Home	<u> </u>
📌 General 👸 Security	Manage Blocking				
Privacy	Restricted List	When you add friends to your Restricted list they can only see the information and posts that you make public. Facebook does not notify your friends when you add them to your Restricted list.			
 Blocking Notifications Mobile 	Block users	Once you block someone, that person can no longer see things you post on your timeline, tag you, invite you to events or groups, start a conversation with you, or add you as a friend. Note: Does not include apps, games or groups you both participate in.			
S Followers		Block users	Add name or email You haven't added anyone to y	Block	I
📭 Ads			i ou navon cadaou anyono to y	our prook not	





59 percent of parents have talked to their children because they were concerned about something posted to social media.

– Pew Internet Research





Key Tip: <u>Twitter</u> is one of the most popular social media tools for tweens and teens. Parents should learn how to use it.

- Parents who are new to Twitter should initiate a dialogue with their child who is already using it. Ask how to set up an account.
- Advise children to think carefully before tweeting a status, picture or video. Have them ask themselves, "Is this something I want my parent, teacher or future employer seeing?"
- Make sure they know to log out completely when finished using Twitter.
- Talk about cyberbullying and how it affects others. Parents should tell their children to come to them if they are being bullied online if someone is making them feel uncomfortable.
- And parents should give their children these absolute rules:
 - Never Tweet personal information (phone number, address, location and inappropriate pictures, videos and posts).
 - Do not to share their password with anyone except a parent.
 - Never make their Tweets public.
- Parents can require that their children's tweets get manual from them by changing the settings on the Default Account Settings page. This also allows parents to control who is "following" their child on Twitter.





<u>SnapChat</u> is a social media app that allows users to send a picture that will then delete itself after a few seconds. The person receiving the picture can take a screenshot of the picture but it notifies the sender that a screenshot has been taken.

SnapChat has been criticized by many Internet safety experts as a tool for sexting. Sexting is sending sexually explicit messages via cell phone or instant messenger. Parents should be aware that this could happen and decide accordingly whether or not to allow children to use this app.

Things to talk about with your child:

- SnapChat creates a false sense of security that images are deleted but kids should know those pictures are being stored somewhere. Nothing is ever really deleted.
- There are many dangers with sexting. Children do not often understand the harmful effects of sharing compromising photos of themselves. Sharing those pictures can

result in bullying, low self-esteem and harm to their online reputations.



Save

1

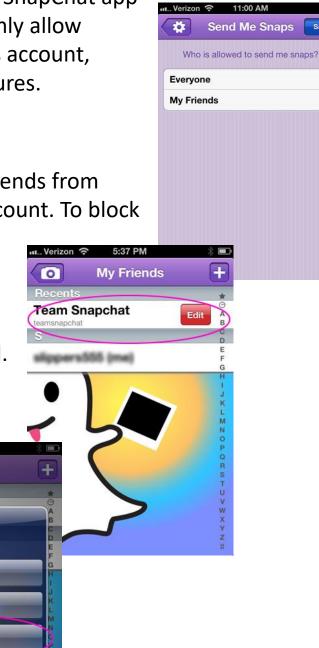
SNAPCHAT SAFETY

Here are a few ways to set up safety features on SnapChat:

- On your child's phone, open the SnapChat app and go to Settings. Choose to only allow My Friends to send snaps to this account, otherwise anyone can send pictures. Make sure to click Save.
- Parents can also block certain friends from sending snaps to their child's account. To block

someone, find their name in the list of friends, swipe to the right, click **Edit** and click **Block**. That friend can no longer send photos in SnapChat to your child.

0



My Friends

teamsnapchat Team Snapchat

Edit Name

Delete

Block

Cancel

apchat



SNAPCHAT SAFETY FOR SNAPMAP

SnapMap is a new feature on **SnapChat** allowing users to view Snaps of sporting events, celebrations, breaking news and more from all across the world. Users can share locations with each other so you can see where your friends are and what they are doing.

- Users can choose who can see their location. To edit your location settings, just tap the button in the top-right corner of the Map screen. You can change who can see your location, or you can hide your location altogether by going into Ghost Mode.
- To open the SnapMap:
- - Go to your Camera screen
- Put your fingers like this and pinch them in like you're zooming out from a photo.
- Your location on SnapMap is updated when you're using SnapChat — you don't have to worry about your location being updated in the background. Your location on the Map will expire after several hours, or as soon as you go into Ghost Mode.





ASK.fm

<u>Ask.fm</u> is a question and answer forum where users pose questions to other users with the option of doing so anonymously. Questions are typically like, "Who is your favorite celebrity?" or "What is your favorite song?" The fact that users can stay anonymous when asking questions or commenting makes it ripe for cyberbullying.

Great Resource

Here is what parents should <u>know</u> to keep their teens safe:

- Unlike other social media platforms, Ask.fm does very little to ensure offensive comments posted on the site are deleted.
- Questions that are inappropriate should never be answered and teens that are targeted by abusive comments should block and report the user immediately.
- The ability to be asked questions anonymously is the default feature of Ask.fm. **Teens should disable this feature** in order to avoid questions from users wishing to remain anonymous.
- If a teenager is feeling uncomfortable with any of the questions or comments, parents should strongly encourage them to disable their accounts.
- Parents should talk regularly with their teens about cyberbullying and monitor which sites their kids are using to socialize.

The greatest deterrent to cyberbullying is active and engaged parents. Keeping up on the newest social media platforms is never easy but it is critical to keeping teens safe and growing up happy.



<u>Jott Messenger</u> is a social network that allows users to send individual and group messages, like vanishing text and pictures, to close friends and anyone else who attends their school.

Great Resource Here is what you need to know about Jott:

lott

You do not need Wi-Fi or an internet connection to use Jott.

- You can add any school without proof that you attend, but to see more than the basic profiles of other students, you have to ask a peer to verify you attend the school.
- The app requires users to provide their real names, birth dates, phone numbers or emails and location to gain access to a school network.
- Jott uses social media must-haves that kids love, including stickers, screenshot detection (of conversations), the ability to send photos, and it even borrows functionality similar to Snapchat, by allowing kids to select a "timer" (destruct) option after photos or chats are viewed.
- There are no Parental Controls.





After School

<u>After School</u> is a social media app that is an anonymous private message board for your school. Students must enable geolocation and select their high school from a list. The app will verify via Facebook that they're a student at the indicated school.

Great Resource

Here is what you need to know about After School:

- Teens 13 and up can register, but to see posts tagged with "sex," "drugs," "profanity," or "gross," teens must verify they're over 17 by scanning the code on their ID cards.
- Due to bullying and threats of violence at schools, this app was removed from the app store and then uploaded again with strict age controls and a live moderator that views every post.
- Because this app allows you to be anonymous, this has lead to many complaints about cyberbullying.



Socia Whi

Social Media Safeguards

Whisper

<u>Whisper</u> is a social networking app that encourages users to post pictures and secrets anonymously. Their tag line is **"Express Yourself - Share Secrets - Meet New People."**

Great Resource

Parents need to know this about Whisper:

- This app is for users 17 and older.
- Whisper reveals the users location.
- Teens can hide who they are in contact with because this app requires a password to view its history.



Periscope

The <u>Periscope app</u> is a live video streaming app that works in conjuncture with Twitter.

Great Resource

- Here is what you need to know about Periscope:
- Users can broadcast live, with no filter or delay, to their Twitter followers using only a smartphone.
- The audience can immediately give feedback, comments, watch and the video for up to 24 hours.
- Periscope 's guidelines urge users to "not show graphic material," but essentially, anyone can broadcast anything.
- There are no parental controls or app blocking features.





Sarahah

<u>Sarahah</u> is an app that allows you to receive honest anonymous feedback about yourself. This app has become very popular, very fast.

Great Resource

- Here is what you need to know about Sarahah:
- This app links to your SnapChat account.
- This app has caused many problems in schools because it is being used to cyberbully classmates anonymously.
- You can block unregistered users from contacting you.
- There are no Parental Controls.



Yellow

Often dubbed **"Tinder for teens",** users swipe left or right on profiles. Matches are automatically provided with a platform to chat and link to each other's Snapchat accounts. Authorities are calling <u>Yellow</u> a potential grooming tool for online predators.

Great Resource

Here's what parents need to know:

- Yellow gives you the option of posting your age, which are only ages between 13-17.
- Many users post first and last names and their locations.
- The app immediately allows users to connect with friends on three accounts: Snapchat, Instagram and Musical.ly.
- Yellow allows a user to report a suspicious account but does not have a blocking feature.
- Sexting could quickly become an issue with Yellow. In a very short time, noticed many male teens posting shirtless photos and females posting sexy photos.
- There are no Parental Controls or app blocking features.



Calculator%, Vaulty and Audio Manager

<u>CALCULATOR</u>[%] - This app looks just like a calculator, but when you click on it and put in the correct password, you could find photos, apps and other files that are nowhere else on the device.

VAULTY - Vaulty will not only store photos and videos away from parental spying eyes, but it also will snap a photo of anyone who tries to access the "vault" with the wrong password.

<u>AUDIO MANAGER</u> - Audio Manager is one of the top apps for hiding other apps. When you press and hold the Audio Manager app, a lock screen is revealed behind which users can hide messages, photos, videos, and other apps.

Great esource Here is what you need to know about these apps:

- The purpose of these "hidden" apps is to hide online behavior or participation that is not acceptable.
- Teens often use these apps to keep inappropriate pictures of themselves to share or of other people who have shared photos with them.
- There are no age limits or requirements to download these apps.
- NO PARENTAL CONTROL OR APP BLOCKING FEATURES





Kik is an instant messaging app similar to texting but users have the option of talking with individuals or groups within a social networking environment. Users can also use Kik to send photos, files and greeting cards. It combines texting with a social network.

Things to know about Kik:

- Users are supposed to be age 13 or older. Kik is not compliant with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act requirements of specific features for a website designed for children, meaning those 12 and under. Kik states, "Children under the age of 13 are prohibited from having a Kik account by the Kik Terms of Service." The site has no age verification requirement. Kik does not have parental controls.
- What if your child is on Kik and you want them off? Parents of kids age 13 who have a Kik account must submit a deactivation request to Kik

via email with the subject line 'Parent Inquiry.' Kik then sends the parent a deactivation request processing.





Social Media Safeguards

TUMBLR

Tumblr is a streamlined blogging platform that is extremely appealing to teenagers. This is a visual platform that allows users to put together picture collages and blogs in a very graphically-appealing way. Chances are your kids have experienced Tumblr, even if they have not yet created a profile.

Some things to know about Tumblr:

• **Tumblr is not allowed for children 12 and under**. If someone signs up using an age that is under 13, the application does not allow an account to be established; however, it is not hard for kids to get around the age requirement.

Finding inappropriate pictures on Tumblr is pretty easy. All one has to do is search a topic and it quickly becomes apparent why this site is not for kids. We recommend parents keep their kids off Tumblr or at the very least talk to them about concerns with the site.

- **Tumblr does provide the ability to block sites deemed NSFW** (Not Safe for Work) from appearing in a user's newsfeed but it still does not stop users from finding inappropriate content if they are looking for it.
- If your child experiences cyberbullying on Tumblr, the site has made it possible to report and block the offending user.





INSTAGRAM

Instagram is a photo sharing social platform. Users can upload their photos via a mobile app and share it with their followers. This platform has grown enormously popular and is a favorite among teens.

Things to know about Instagram:

 Instagram will only allow a user to create a profile if he or she is over the age of 13. The user must provide an email address and create a username. There is no age verification process to ensure kids under age 13 are not using it.



- A child can set their profile to "private" which means only followers can see and comment on their pictures. A follower must send a request and be approved by the user in order to gain access. If you do not manually change the profile to private, any Instagram user can view your profile.
- Talk to kids about who they should add as followers. Remind them to never allow strangers to follow their profile.
- If a child is being harassed on Instagram, they can **block the offending** user from being able to see and comment on their photos.

CHAPTER FIVE

TECHNOLOGY CAN BE A POSITVE OR NEGATIVE INFLUENCE IN YOUR CHILD'S LIFE.

WHICH WILL YOU CHOOSE?



Sign up for the MICHIGAN CHILD PROTECTION REGISTRY.

Go to protectmichild.com to protect your email, cell phone numbers and instant messenger ID's from adult oriented marketing. It's safe, fast and best of all FREE for Michigan schools and families!

