



St. Clair County

Child Abuse and Neglect Council

"It shouldn't hurt to be a child".



Just for Teens

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Online Safety

The internet, social media platforms, gaming systems, cell phones and many other electronic devices are great tools for enhancing our ability to connect with family members and friends. However, if you are not careful, these tools can create dangerous situations and may get you in trouble with the law.

The following tips will help keep you safe using electronic devices and social media platforms:

- Don't publish personal information such as your location, email address, phone number or date of birth.
- Be very careful about what images and messages you post, even among trusted friends - once they are online, they can be shared widely and are extremely difficult to get removed.
- If anyone posts pictures or comments about you online without your permission – report it to a parent or trusted adult and the authorities immediately.
- If you come across anything you feel is offensive or upsetting – report it to a parent or trusted adult and the authorities immediately.
- You should only meet a friend you've made online in real life if you are accompanied by a parent or trusted adult – it is never ok to meet a friend you've met online alone.
- Be aware of online scams - offers which seem too good to be true usually are.
- Don't participate in online discussions about sex as they tend to attract dangerous users.
- If you are being stalked or harassed, you should tell your parent(s) or trusted adult immediately as well as report it to police.

Online Safety Websites:

- www.wiredsafety.org
- www.onguardonline.gov
- www.netsmartzkids.org
- www.cyberbully411.org
- www.ikeepsafe.org