

## **SAFEGUARDS**

- Talk openly to your child.
- Set rules with your children for computer use.
- Limit access to the computer only when you are home.
- Some commercial online services offer “parental control features” to block areas you feel are inappropriate for your children.
- Know your child’s “internet friends” as you know their other friends.
- Make sure your children’s schools have supervised Internet Services and an acceptable use policy.



## **IF YOU FEEL YOUR CHILD IS A VICTIM OF THE INTERNET...**

**CONTACT:  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY  
SHERIFF’S OFFICE  
(813) 247-8200**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A CRIME  
PREVENTION PROGRAM ABOUT  
INTERNET SAFETY FOR A GROUP  
OR SCHOOL**

**CALL:  
(813) 247-8115**

**<http://www.hcso.tampa.fl.us>**

## **PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN ON THE INTERNET**



**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY  
SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

# INTERNET SAFETY TIPS

- KEEP YOUR HOME COMPUTER IN A COMMON AREA - *not in your child's bedroom.*
- Supervise your child's computer activities:
  - *websites visited*
  - *chatrooms*
  - *instant messages*
- Advise your children **NEVER** to give out their:
  - *age, name, address, phone number*
  - *parent's name or workplace*
  - *name of their school*
  - *password*
- Your child should be warned **NEVER** to:
  - *agree to telephone anyone or*
  - *agree to meet in person or "in real life."*
- Advise your child **NEVER** to send a picture of themselves to anyone.



## SIGNS OF RISK

- Your child spends large amounts of time online advising you it's for schoolwork.
- Your child receives lots of calls from people you don't know.
- Your children become uneasy when you enter the room or quickly change computer screens.
- Your child receives mail, gifts, or packages from people you don't know.
- Your children have a free website e-mail address that can be accessed from any computer without your knowledge.

# PARENTAL CONTROLS

- Never let your children have their "own" password - you must be able to check their e-mails and e-mail address book.
- Review your recycle bin.
- Review the document file.
- Review your "history" file to find out what sites your child has visited.
- Perform a "find" function on your computer to locate:
  - \*.jpg - image files
  - \*.mpg - movie clips
  - \*.avi - movie clips
- Review your child's diskettes - they may not be "games." Check for hidden diskettes because subjects send images of themselves or pornography and tell children to save the images to diskettes and hide them.

