



DCF COVID-19 Daily Update Supporting Children, Families and Staff April 24, 2020

ONLINE SAFETY FOR YOUTH DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As many of us are practicing social distancing and quarantine, there are many additional risks for our children and youth who are spending more time on the internet. The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting our communities in so many ways, child exploitation and trafficking cannot be overlooked as a significant risk for our children. With the distance learning protocols in place, children and youth have new/ additional access to the internet which becomes the platform for exploiting children and youth. Here are things to keep in mind:

- Many schools across the state are closing for extended period of time; kids will have a significant amount of free time which often translates to more social media.
- Many parents/ guardians/ entrusted caregivers still have to work; many children will be unsupervised.
- Entertainment outlets are being cancelled and closed; children and adults will have more idle time.
- The vast majority of our child victims are lured in and/or sold online.
- Natural disasters increase the demand for trafficking. Clearly this is different than what we usually think of with a natural disaster but many of the dynamics are similar ex: lack of food when children/ families rely on school meals.
- Best prevention strategies such as structured pro-social activities, sports, positive connections with teachers and coaches, school success, church, etc. will be extremely limited or obsolete during the next few weeks or months.
- Family stressors which will be elevated offer an opportunity for traffickers to reach out to our vulnerable children.

Having our children and youth home during such difficult times is comforting knowing they are safe. Sadly, the unfortunate reality is that with increased internet usage there are perpetrators coming into our homes through social media, various apps and gaming systems without parent's knowledge. Please join us for an informational training on how you can protect your children from online predators and spot possible exploitation"

Tammy Sneed, Office of Human Trafficking Services

The Online Exploitation Risks to Children

Join us to learn how to keep your kids safe from online predators during the pandemic.

Monday, May 4th, 2020
at 4 p.m. on Zoom

Hosted by a collaborate group of experts.

INTERNET SAFETY CONCEPTS
Empowering Smart Online Choices



Register at:

<https://fs18.formsite.com/ccl/cphdzqn3ja/index.html?1587413394898>

No cost to attend. Registration is limited to 100 people. Training will be recorded.

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