

Supporter Fact Sheet

Having a Conversation about Internet Safety

How to STAY SAFE

The following are questions you might use to start a conversation about Internet safety with a person you support. Ask the questions first. Check his or her answers with the answers you see under each question. If something bad happens to the person while he or she is using the Internet, don't overreact. Talk it through and help the person figure out a way to deal with it.

Question: What things do you like to do (or want to do) on the Internet? Some possible answers:

- ✓ Keep in touch with family and friends
- ✓ Find things to do
- ✓ Plan a trip or
- ✓ Buy things

Question: What is personal information? Some possible answers:

- ✓ Full name (first and last name)
- ✓ Names of family members
- ✓ Home address
- ✓ Phone number
- ✓ Social Security number
- ✓ Password(s)
- ✓ Credit card numbers

Question: Why should you keep personal information private? Some possible answers:

- ✓ It is a red flag if someone you don't know asks for personal information. Some people use the Internet to steal from or hurt others.
- ✓ Giving someone you don't know your full name, address, or telephone number will make it easy for him or her to find you and maybe take advantage of you in some way.
- ✓ Giving someone your credit card numbers will make it easy for him or her to steal money from you.
- ✓ Giving someone your Social Security number will make it easy for him or her to pretend to be you – to steal your identity – and open and use credit card accounts in your name.
- ✓ A password is like a key to all the information you keep on the Internet. If you give it to someone, that person can get all your personal information and more. If you think you won't remember your password, write it down and keep it somewhere safe.
- ✓ When you set up your personal profile on Facebook or other social network site, be careful that you don't share personal information like your address.



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Question: Are there times when you may want to share information?

When you register for a social network like Facebook or want to buy something on the Internet, you will be asked for some personal information. This is a good time to talk to someone you know and trust to make sure what you are doing is safe.

Question: What should you do if someone online asks you for money? Some possible answers and information:

- ✓ **NEVER SEND MONEY** to someone you don't know who sends an e-mail asking for money, no matter how truthful he or she sounds. The person or company asking for the money is trying to steal your money.
- ✓ If you fall into the trap and send money, you have been "scammed." You will never see that money again. To learn more about common e-mail scams, go to <http://netforbeginners.about.com/od/scamandidentitytheft.ss/top10inetscams.htm>.

Question: What should you do if you are online and someone you don't know asks to meet you face-to-face? Some possible answers:

- ✓ **If someone you don't know asks to meet you face-to-face, the best advice is not to meet him or her.** The person might hurt you. If you are unsure, you may want to talk to someone you trust about what to do.
- ✓ You may want to stop talking or e-mailing with that person.

Question: What should you do if someone online sends you a mean or hurtful message?

Some possible answers:

- ✓ Some people – even people you know – may send mean and hateful messages to you when you are on the Internet. If that happens, ignore them.
- ✓ If someone says anything online that makes you feel uncomfortable, creepy, or scared, stop talking or e-mailing with that person. If you are on Facebook or another social network, you can Block the sender so that he or she cannot contact you again.

Question: Who do you feel you can talk to if you need help to stay safe on the Internet?

Some possible answers:

- ✓ You should identify someone you know and trust who has experience using the Internet. It might be someone in your family, a friend, or a support person.
- ✓ You can also get help online. For example, you can report online bullies to www.cybertipline.com. If you think something illegal has been sent to you, you might report it to the police.