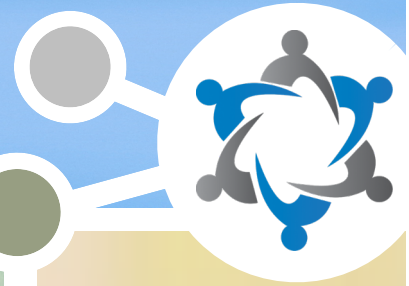


# HOW ONLINE PREDATORS OPERATE

## PARENT'S GUIDE TO ONLINE SAFETY



There is no one single method in which online predators work. But there are several methods that can have been identified as how online predators locate their victims and get them to do what they want, whether it is meeting them in person or simply engaging in some kind of online/on the phone sexual activity.

### These are some typical methods online predators use:

- **Find kids** through social networking, blogs, chat rooms (even monitored, kids chat rooms), instant messaging, e-mail, and other Web sites, often using information in their targets' personal profiles.
- **Seduce their targets** through attention, flattery, affection, kindness, and even gifts. These types of manipulation will cause kids to lose their sense of awareness, and help the predators to get from bad intentions to sexual exploitation (this is called "grooming", and may continue over extended time periods).
- **Are familiar with the latest music, hobbies, fashion, etc.** that are likely to interest kids.
- **Look for children that are emotionally vulnerable** due to problems at school or home.
- **Listen to and sympathize with kids' problems**, while building a pseudo friendship, taking the kids side vis-à-vis their parents or teachers.
- **Gradually introduce sexual content** into conversations or show sexually explicit material that may even involve children engaging in sexual activity – in order to convince kids that this type of behavior is acceptable.
- **If the victim tries to cut off communication, predators scare the victim into continuing the relationship** by convincing them that they will tell their parents what they have been doing online and that they have viewed pornographic pictures, etc.
- **May impersonate other youths** in order to convince minors to meet with them.

If you think your child may be communicating with an online predator there are several things that you can do:

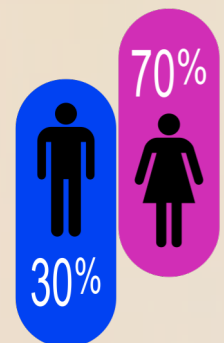
- **Alert law enforcement.**
- **Talk openly with your child** about your suspicions. Tell them about the potential dangers. Explain about the grooming process so that they will be aware if someone is using these tactics with them. Explain that they are not to blame in any way. Try to understand if there is anything that is bothering them which is causing them to be emotionally vulnerable.
- **Check** for pornography or any kind of sexual communication on your child's computer.
- **Try to see who is calling your child** (use Caller ID ) and block the suspicious number.
- **Monitor** your child's access to all types of live electronic communications (i.e., chat rooms, instant messages, e-mail, etc.). Utilizing Parental Control Software can help you monitor your child's online behavior and even block unwanted contacts.
- **Limit** the amount of hours your child spends on the computer and make sure they are not online late at night.



There are over 747,000 Registered Sex Offenders in the United States (2013)



One in five U.S. teenagers who regularly log on to the Internet says they have received an unwanted sexual solicitation via the Web.



About 30% of the victims of Internet sexual exploitation are boys and 70% are girls.

# 100%

In 100% of the cases, teens that are the victims of sexual predators have gone willingly to meet with them