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The Internet gives all of us a lot of freedom and creates many options. But having more freedom also means having more responsibility.

Be careful online, and always check with a parent before giving out private information about yourself or your family (like your last name, phone number, or where you live). Treat everyone online with the same respect that you would treat them with in person.

To protect you, your parents probably have their own guidelines for using the computer at home. It's important to follow those guidelines. I designed this brochure to give you some additional tips to help you surf the Web safely.

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SURFING SAFELY
Online Safety Tips

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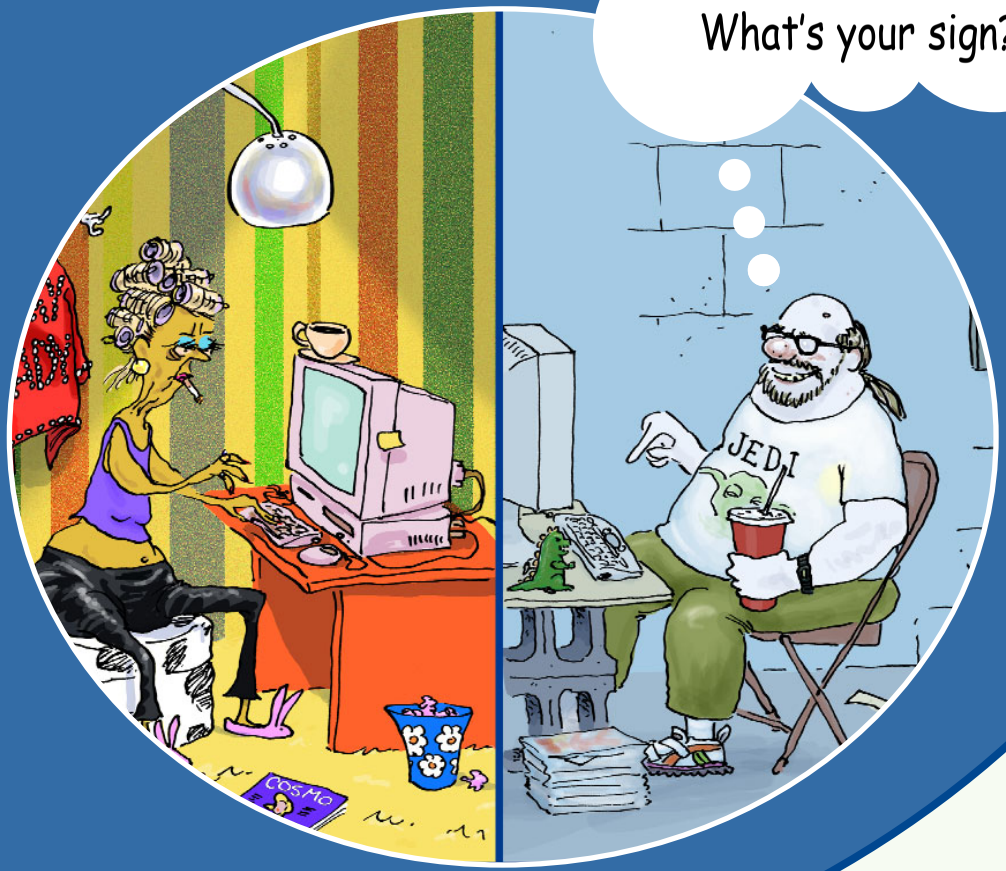
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

Are people on the Internet *really* who they say they are?



1. Do not give out any personal information without a parent's permission. For example, never give out your address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name or location of your school without a parent's permission.

2. If you encounter something online that you do not understand or that makes you feel uncomfortable, tell a parent right away.

3. Never make plans to get together with someone you meet online without asking for a parent's permission first. If you decide to meet with someone, make sure you meet in a public place, and bring a parent along.

4. Do not send any pictures of yourself to anyone without a parent's permission first.

5. Do not respond to any message that makes you feel uncomfortable. It is not your fault if you get a message like that, and it is okay to tell your parents no matter what it is.

6. Do not pick screen names that give away personal information (for example, NicoleIllinois1992).

7. Obey your parents' rules for computer and online use. Always make sure it is okay before going online.

8. Remember that people may not be who they say they are.

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