



# Tips for Teens: Online Safety

From the Minnesota Attorney General's Office

## Tips for Your Online Safety

The most important thing to remember is when you are online, anyone can read whatever you post.

Never post anything on the Internet that you wouldn't want the whole world to know.

### Keep Your Identity Private

If you are in any type of public website, avoid giving out your name, mailing address, telephone number, school name, or any other information that could help someone figure out who you are or where you live. Don't give out information about family and friends, either.

### Never Get Together with Someone You "Meet" Online

The biggest danger to your safety is getting together with someone you "meet" online.

You can never be positive that people you meet online are who they say they are. For example, some criminals or very bad people may pretend to be another kid to try to trick you.

Discuss your meeting plans with your parents. Always bring an adult with you when you meet an online friend in person for the first time.



### Never Respond to Messages That Are Mean or Inappropriate

It isn't your fault if you get a message that makes you feel uncomfortable.

If you get a message that is mean or inappropriate, don't respond. Instead, show the message to your parents or to another trusted adult to see if there is anything that can be done to put a stop to it.

### Talk with Your Parents about Ground Rules for Going Online

It's important that parents and teens talk about the family's rules for teen's online activities. This includes when you can go online, how long you can stay online, and what activities you can participate in online.

Your parents want you to be safe. Communicating with your parents doesn't mean that you have to give up your privacy. Understand that reasonable limits can help keep you safe.