

State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
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JON S. CORZINE Governor

ANNE MILGRAM
Attorney General

August 9, 2007

Michael Birch, CEO Bebo, Inc 142 Tenth Street San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Mr. Birch:

I write to ask for your assistance in New Jersey's efforts to protect Internet users from the dangers posed by sexual predators who may use social networking sites to search for, learn about, and contact potential victims. I believe that through mutual cooperation we can help further public safety, especially the safety of those most vulnerable to harm.

Recently, it was reported that the social networking site, MySpace, had identified 29,000 profiles on its site that had been created by convicted sex offenders. Through further investigation, we identified at least 269 New Jersey registered sex offenders who had MySpace accounts, many of whom are currently supervised by the New Jersey State Parole Board. I believe that some of these individuals may belong to multiple social networking sites, or will attempt to join other networking sites if removed from MySpace. Still other convicted sex offenders may have created profiles on sites other than MySpace. MySpace's identification of such a large number of registered sex offenders on its site underscores the need for awareness and action by all social networking sites.

Most social networking sites provide users with links to safety tips and instructions for reporting inappropriate content. I think that, working together, we can do more to improve Internet safety. Toward that end, I would like to know the affirmative steps that you have taken, or intend to take, to identify convicted sex offenders using your site and the identifying information you utilize to determine if a user of your service is a convicted sex offender. Please provide responsive information by August 30, 2007. Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated.



In addition, to assist you in identifying sex offenders on your site, we intend to provide you with relevant information about New Jersey residents convicted of sex offenses. We ask that you check this information against your member registration information and report the results of this check to this Office. Meanwhile, you should be aware that information about certain convicted sex offenders is publicly available through New Jersey's Sex Offender Registry which can be accessed through the website of the New Jersey Division of State Police at http://www.njsp.org/info/reg_sexoffend.html.

I welcome your assistance and cooperation in this important public safety endeavor. Together, we can work to make the Internet safer. If you have any questions, please contact Jason Orlando of my office at 609-292-8640.

Sincerely yours,

Aime Milgram
Attorney General

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