

Sex Offender Safety Guide



Dear Student,

In today's fast-paced society, you are becoming increasingly familiar with the advances in technology that are readily available. With such innovations as instant messaging, video mail/chat, and cellular phone texting, young people like yourself are meeting more and more people of different ages all over the world with a few simple clicks of a button. However, you must be very careful of how far this interaction may go.

To that end, the Attorney General has made this sex offender safety guide for students available. It is important to know that child molesters do exist in our communities and can be anyone, even someone you know – a family friend, friend, teacher or coach. Child molesters can be male or female, rich or poor and from any cultural or ethnic background.

It is our hope that this guide will help to educate you on the potentially dangerous risks of sex offenders and to also help reduce your chances of becoming a victim. You represent the future of our great country so your safety along with the safety of young children like you is of the highest importance!



Some Characteristics of Pedophiles

- Usually **adult males**.
- Usually **married**, but not always.
- **Get along better with children** and teens than adults.
- May **work in places that children** and teens often go.
- Frequently take or **collect pictures of their victims**, with or without clothes on or in sexually explicit poses or acts.
- May use gifts, drugs, or **alcohol to entice or lure his victims**.

stay alert on-line Internet Safety

MANTOLOKING, NJ – APRIL 2007 – The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office along with on-line volunteer watchdog group Perverted Justice utilized Casey, an 18 year old volunteer, who posed as a 13 year old in an undercover investigation to catch pedophiles. Within 4 days, 28 men ranging in age from 21 - 60, who had chatted online with who they thought were underage teens, were arrested from NJ, PA, CT and NY, with jobs ranging from Air Force mechanic to school bus driver. Only one was a previously convicted sex offender. The cases were featured on two episodes of the NBC show "To Catch a Predator".

PASSAIC COUNTY, NJ – Members of the Sheriff's Dept. posed as a 14 year old girl in an Internet chat room. Three men were arrested after they went to the Willowbrook Mall to meet the "girl." The men - 1 from NJ and 2 from New York, one of whom was a NY State Corrections Officer, were charged with attempts to use the Internet to lure someone they thought to be a 14 year old girl into having sex.

" I started talking to Mark, a 23-year-old, on-line. Soon we talked on the phone every night, and sent e-mails back and forth each day. He asked me a lot of questions, but didn't answer a lot of mine. He always asked me about sex. A few months later, he asked me to meet him alone in a hotel room, so I let my friend know when I went to his room.

I'm happy that I have good friends because Mark was really over 40, and my friend let my Mom know where I was. She came in right before I was about to be raped.

-13 year old girl "



Pedophile Sex Offender, Child Molester What's the Difference?

A pedophile is someone who has an **unhealthy sexual attraction** to children and teenagers. A sex offender is someone who has committed a crime. **Not all sex offenders are pedophiles**, although we often use the word child molester when we refer to crimes against children and teenagers.



According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children one in seven children in America between the ages of 10 and 17 is sexually solicited online.

The Office of the Attorney General advises parents to place the computer in a common area, rather than in a child's bedroom, and to monitor the time spent online and the web sites the child has visited. She also urges parents to talk with their children about the risks associated with social networking sites and ways to stay safe when using the Internet.

FACT: 14% of teens receive on-line sexual advances

Internet Smart

- don't give out personal information, or place inappropriate pictures on social networking sites - like myspace or facebook - or any other websites. Personal information includes name, address, school teams, phone number, parent information, or your schedule.
- set your profile to private so only your friends can see you.
- google yourself to see if there is any personal information on-line, and talk to a parent or police department to have it removed.
- remember cyber-friends are great, but it is easy to lie and too many people use the internet for the wrong reasons.
- use www.CyberTipLine.com to report on-line abuse.

BE Smart Alert Safe



Think Smart

- **It's your body.** Tell a trusted adult if anyone tries to touch you, or touches you inappropriately. It's not your fault if someone tries to do that to you. If you are not ready to talk with someone you know, you can always talk to someone anonymously.
- If someone approaches you, or tries to offer you drugs or cigarettes, go to a safe location like your house, a friend's house, a store, or police station.
- **Go with your first instinct.** Always trust your gut. You are not being rude if you ignore someone, or move away from them. You are simply protecting yourself.
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: 1-800-THE-LOST or **1-800-843-5678**
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: **1-800-656-HOPE (4673)**
- NJCASA, New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault: **1-800-601-7200**



Be Informed

CAMDEN, NJ – APRIL 2006 –
A former Superior Court Judge was sentenced to 2 years in federal prison for traveling to Russia to have sex with a young teenage boy for the purpose of producing a videotape and transporting that videotape back to the United States.

MONMOUTH, NJ – A 42 year old Holmdel police officer chatted online with a female undercover officer who posed as a 13 year old. He set up a meeting with the officer, believing she was 13 years old. A police officer for 16 years, he was convicted of attempted sexual assault, luring and endangering the welfare of a child and possession of child pornography.

OCEAN, NJ – NOVEMBER 2005 –
38 year old male security guard at a NYC school took a train from Brooklyn NY to meet a 12 year old Manchester girl who had corresponded with him online through "MySpace". When he was arrested, the man had handcuffs and sex tools in his possession. The man is currently facing federal charges for crossing state lines to have sex with a minor.

Fact:
there are more attempts than actual incidences of sexual assault.

Fact:
sexual assaults can happen at home.

" I was in my street playing with my friends when a car drove through and then stopped and reversed. The car backed up to me and the driver shouted for me to get in the car. I said, "No," and ran off to my house. The car drove off. All I can remember is that it was a white car."
-middle school boy

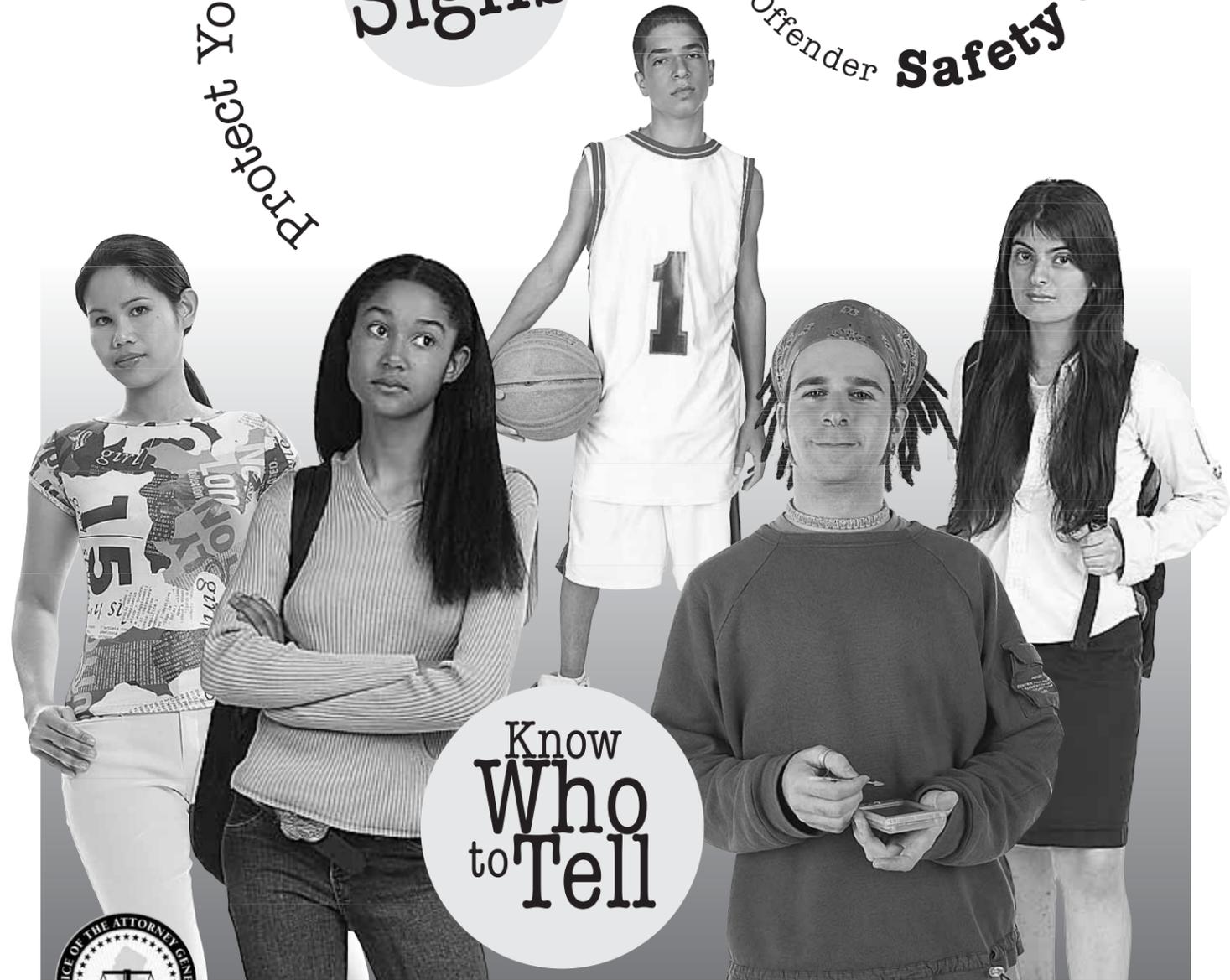


Fact:
boys are victims, too.

BE Smart
Alert
Safe

Protect Yourself from Pedophiles
Know the Signs

Know
What
to
Do
Sex Offender
Safety Guide



Know
Who
to
Tell

BE Smart
Alert
Safe

For additional resources visit:
www.NJPublicSafety.com/BeSmart

This guide was prepared by the NJ Attorney General's Office, Division of Criminal Justice in collaboration with the NJ School Boards Association, the NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the NJ Department of Education and the NJ Division of Women.



Office of the Attorney General



Division of Criminal Justice



New Jersey Office of the Attorney General