

**-E-mail** Observe and manage all active e-mail accounts, and discourage web-based accounts for your child's personal use.

**Step 1:** Open your primary e-mail program (i.e. Outlook Express, Outlook, etc.) and check the contents of all folders such as the Inbox, Outbox, Drafts, and blocked Spam.

**Step 2:** In the event there is a large amount of messages from unknown addresses, use the search function under *Edit*, then *Find* in the toolbar to browse subject titles and message contents.

**Instant Messaging** Monitor the use of instant messaging services such as America Online Instant Messenger (AIM) and Yahoo Instant Messenger. These services allow individuals to instantaneously send text messages and pictures to both "buddies" and strangers using the service.

\*When searching computer databases for potentially harmful files, enter words or phrases that may be associated with explicit material. Suggested words and terms commonly used in similar searches include: *private, sex, drugs, pornography, adult, violence, weapons, predator*, or any other questionable terminology that comes to mind when searching.

NOTE: Exploring the computer for various content is useful, but continuous in-person monitoring is always a better method. Not all harmful content can be detected and files can be deleted.

## ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S ONLINE SAFETY

1. Never provide personal information over the Internet.
2. Keep the computer in an open and frequently-used area.
3. Regulate computer usage for your child so he/she can be closely supervised.
4. Consider using passwords to regulate access to both the computer and Internet.
5. Purchase software that monitors Internet usage and blocks potentially harmful webpages sexual predators frequent including chat rooms and blogging services (i.e. Myspace and Facebook). Recommended software includes Cyber Patrol, Net Nanny, any Norton product (especially Norton Firewall), BESS, etc.
6. Make sure your child understands the dangers of certain aspects of the Internet.
7. Regularly monitor your computer using the steps presented within this guide.

**The Sheriff and the Prosecutor are concerned about the growing danger of Internet predators. If you discover questionable content, please report it.**

---

This publication was prepared by interns Natalia Mechalkina and Andrew Szilagyi of the Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office.

## INTERNET SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

---

### Ottawa County Prosecutor's Office

Ottawa County Courthouse  
315 Madison Street, Second Floor  
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

**MARK E. MULLIGAN**

Prosecuting Attorney

**Special Thanks for Resources  
Provided By:**

**Ottawa County Sheriff,  
ROBERT L. BRATTON**

and

**Ottawa County Commissioners,  
CARL KOEBEL  
JOHN G. P APCUN  
STEVEN M. ARNDT**