HUMAN TRAFFICKERS MAY TARGET YOUR CHILD THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE DURING COVID-19

DID YOU KNOW?

• As our world becomes more dependent on technology and the web, children are increasingly at risk of befriending strangers online.
• Traffickers use social media and gaming apps to connect and recruit youth.
• The most common way victims are trafficked in San Diego County is online.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY STATS

• The underground sex economy in the County is estimated at $810 million a year.
• Over 3,500 victims are trafficked every year.
• 80% of those victims were born in the U.S.
• 90% of high schools studied had documented cases of human trafficking.
• Victims and traffickers can be any race, age, or gender.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD TO KEEP THEM SAFE ONLINE

• Is your account private?
• Are you sharing your:
  o First and Last names?
  o School name?
  o Status updates?
  o Locations tagged?
  o Contact info?
• Do you personally know the people you add as friends?

POTENTIAL SIGNS THAT YOUR CHILD MAY NOT BE SAFE ONLINE

• Becoming increasingly secretive
• Hiding what is on their computer screen
• Out of sight or behind a closed door when online
• Not speaking openly about their activity online
• Vague talk of making new friends with little to no details
• Agitated behavior when answering their phone
• Needing to take calls in private

FBI RECOMMENDATIONS TO PARENTS

• Review and approve games and apps before they are downloaded.
• Make sure privacy settings are set to the strictest level possible for online gaming systems, phones and other devices.
• Monitor your child’s use of the internet and keep computers in a non-private room.
• Explain to your child that images posted online most likely will remain on the internet permanently.
• Teach your child about personal boundaries and awareness of their surroundings.
• Encourage open child-parent communication around internet safety.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTING AND RESOURCES

San Diego Child Abuse Hotline: (800) 344-6000
National Human Trafficking Hotline: (888) 373-7888
San Diego Youth Services: (619) 993-8050
North County Lifeline: (760) 842-6526

Stay informed and connected with the Collective!

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