



San Diego Trafficking  
Prevention Collective

# 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:
  - First and Last names?
  - School name?
  - Status updates?
  - Locations tagged?
  - 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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