

NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES

800 Compton Road, Suite 9224, Cincinnati, OH 45231
(513) 521-6227 • Fax: (513) 521-6337 • HelpLine: (800) 583-2964 • www.nationalcoalition.org

I. EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW

WHY WE MUST ACT NOW.....

....because of the crisis of rapidly escalating sexual exploitation of children and young people from:

- pornography on the Internet
- sexual predators
- sexual slavery and trafficking
- the constant flood of sexualized media messages

....because of the avalanche of pornography exploiting our children and youth through advanced technology such as video cell phones, PDAs and iPods.

- They can access all the pornography on the Internet
- They can do so anonymously
- They can do so through purchased phone cards.
- They can take sexually explicit pictures of themselves and others and send them to each other and post them on the Internet itself. **“To possess or distribute such pictures of children 17 and under is a felony and leads to serious legal problems and massive moral and spiritual struggles.”**

....because of the constant sexual stimulation and experimentation of children and young people in America.

- The average teenager is exposed to nearly 14,000 sexual messages a year. Less than 2% of these have any reference to abstinence, self-discipline or concern about sexually transmitted diseases.
- The American teenager is the most sexually active of all the industrialized nations.
- American teenagers lead the entire world in unwanted pregnancies.
- American teenagers lead the industrialized world in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) with 3-4 million new cases reported each year.
- American teenagers lead the world in abortions.
- American teenagers are more likely to become pregnant and have multiple partners than any other teenager on the planet.
- 65 percent of young people have sex before they finish high school.

....because of the ways the Evil One uses sexual brokenness, guilt and shame to destroy the spiritual life and strength of God’s people, especially young people, and destroys their relationship to the Church.

- Sexual brokenness and guilt undermine faith and confidence in God.
- Sexual brokenness and shame weaken the desire for fellowship and prayer.
- Sexual failure neutralizes the desire for scripture and obedience.
- Sexual failure destroys their passion for worship and sharing Christ with friends.

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II. EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW

HOW EVERY CHILD IN AMERICA WILL BE IMPACTED

1. Because pornographers are continually on the offensive and are determined to seduce those not seeking pornography and force their morality on us. They have learned how to manipulate innocent people from good sites to pornographic sites.
2. Because every child will have some peers or friends of peers that are plugged into the Internet through a wireless device or an iPod.
3. Because pornographic material is powerfully addictive and because those peers who will be impacted, will talk about it, and will offer access to the material.
4. Because young people and children are often more computer literate than their parents and grandparents and are inquisitive about sexual things.
5. Because children and youth are already putting pressure on their parents to have video mobile phones, etc. that can access the Internet. That pressure will increase significantly as the video mobile phone industry explodes. Within a matter of months almost every mobile phone will have Internet and picture capacity and we know that the wireless industry will produce a massive advertising campaign because they make their large profits through monthly Internet fees. Peer pressure to not be left behind will intensify.
6. If your children don't succeed with you in getting the Internet, some of their friends or peers will succeed with their parents. When they discover pornographic material, including its addictive nature and how it impacts their hormones, they will share it with others. Knowledge is power and they will become an 'In Group'.
7. When (not if) your child sees that material, because you have trained them in the Christian faith, he/she will likely be attracted and repulsed at the same time. Often the revulsion will wane and the titillation will come back and make it more difficult to say, 'No' consistently over a long period of time.

IN DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH MANY OF THE LARGEST WIRELESS COMPANIES WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO WARN PARENTS AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE ABOUT THE DANGERS OF INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY. THIS MEANS THAT THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS WITH PARENTS TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN BY NOT BUYING ACCESS TO THE INTERNET UNTIL ADEQUATE SAFETY DEVICES ARE IN PLACE MUST BE DONE BY THE FAITH COMMUNITY NOW.

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III. EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW

THE DANGERS OF PICTURE CAPABILITY THROUGH PEER-TO-PEER SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIAL

1. Parents need to know how widespread and dangerous peer-to-peer file exchange of sexually explicit pictures are. The legal ramifications make such pictures of persons 17 and younger child pornography and a felony.
2. They need to know how easily such pictures are taken, transmitted and made available to their friends and to the world through the Internet.
3. They need to know how easily their children can be drawn into watching such activity and even participating in such behavior.

IV. EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW

THE DANGERS OF SEXUAL PREDATORS

1. Understand and teach their children about the tactics of sexual predators through the Internet and how widespread this problem has become.
2. Understand and teach their children not to share any personal information with a stranger (anyone they don't know personally) on the Internet.
3. Encourage their children to tell them immediately when anyone on the Internet begins to talk or write about sexual behavior. **Let them know that you trust them and will not discipline them if they are honest with you about these issues.**

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V. EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW

THESE FACTS

1. The importance of teaching young children about “good touch and bad touch.”
2. Their child will probably be exposed to pornography between the ages of 10-14 if not before. The average age for boys is 9 ½ and for girls is 10 ½ and continues to get younger.
3. How important it is that parents help prepare their child for that first exposure and beyond.
4. How important it is that parents build strong, open relationships with their children so that when they hit the pre-teen and teen years there will be a high trust level and relatively good communication.
5. How dangerous it is for their children and young people to have access to the Internet without adequate safety devices and a monitoring system in place at the time of purchase. They are helpful, but none of these is presently adequate. Young people who are knowledgeable about computers can get around them.
6. Keep your home computer in a place that is not private so you can see what they download.
7. Know what is happening in the lives of the peers of their children who have access to the Internet unfiltered. What is the impact on those peers? And what is the depth of relationships they have with your child?
8. How addictive this material is to most persons, but especially those entering puberty and just beyond. Pornography is the ‘Drug of the new millennium’.
9. Ways they as parents can help protect their own children and the children with whom they play. Parents need to partner with parents of their children’s friends. They need to clearly establish their own policies and priorities and keep them consistently.
10. They need to know what the parents of their child’s friends believe and what they allow their children to access.
11. They need to know the policies of school and library authorities and what precautions are being taken to protect their children. They also need to know how they can impact their school’s policies on wireless devices and iPods.
12. They need to understand how the evil one uses sexual issues to weaken, undermine, attack and destroy their children’s faith, relationship to Jesus Christ and to God’s people.