

The CyberTipline®:

Your Resource

for Reporting

the Sexual

Exploitation

of Children

THE INTERNET HAS CREATED AN EXCITING NEW WORLD of information and communication for anyone with access to online services. While this world offers unparalleled opportunities for children and adults to learn about the universe we live in, some risks and dangers exist for children as they travel through Cyberspace. This may include access to illegal content on the web or receiving inappropriate and unsolicited electronic mail (E-mail) or chatroom messages. In addition individuals who prey on children have quickly adapted to the online community of the Information Age and often use computer technology to seek unsupervised access to and contact with children.

To better safeguard children while online, key public- and private-sector leaders joined with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) on March 9, 1998, to launch the CyberTipline. The CyberTipline allows individuals to report incidents of child sexual exploitation including

- Possession, manufacture, and distribution of child pornography
- Online enticement of children for sexual acts
- Child victims of prostitution
- Sex tourism involving child victims
- Extrafamilial molestation of children
- Unsolicited, obscene material sent to children
- Misleading domain names

SEVEN DAYS PER WEEK, 24 HOURS PER DAY, NCMEC IS FULLY STAFFED TO HANDLE LEADS AND THEN DISTRIBUTE THOSE LEADS TO THE APPROPRIATE LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

HOW DOES THE CYBERTIPLINE WORK?

- When children believe someone is trying to entice them for sexual or illegal purposes or they have found child pornography online, they tell their families.
- The child and family link to the CyberTipline, www.cybertipline.com, and fill out an online report.
- NCMEC Call Center Specialists retrieve and prioritize each lead. Then the report is immediately reviewed and analyzed by NCMEC's Exploited Child Unit (ECU). This may include visiting a reported web site or newsgroup posting, contacting the complainant to gather additional information, and conducting searches using various Internet tools and public-record-database searches. The report is made available through a virtual private network (VPN) to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Immigration and Customs Enforcement; the U.S. Postal Inspection Service; the U.S. Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section; and, when known, directly forwarded to the state and local law-enforcement agency where the incident occurred which includes the 46 Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force members.

YOU CAN HELP

The Internet is being used in a number of ways to target and sexually victimize children. The best way to reduce the risks on the Internet is to understand the potential dangers, watch for abuses, and immediately report them. Using the CyberTipline at www.cybertipline.com will greatly help in the fight against child sexual exploitation on the Internet.

TO REMOVE BOOKMARK, TEAR OR CUT HERE



CYBERTIPLINE®

www.cybertipline.com

The Public's Resource for Protecting Children Online

SUCCESS STORIES

Through December 2005 the CyberTipline has received more than 365,000 reports from families, Internet Service Providers, teachers, clergy, law enforcement, and many other concerned people who want to better safeguard children while they are exploring on the Internet. Many of those leads have taken children out of harm's way.

- The CyberTipline was contacted to provide technical assistance after a missing child sent an E-mail to her professor. The 16-year-old girl ran away from her home in Hong Kong and took a flight to the United States. After arriving in the United States her whereabouts were unknown. CyberTipline Analysts reviewed the information in the E-mail's "header" and provided investigators with crucial information about where the child was accessing the Internet. This information directly led to her recovery.
- The CyberTipline received a report regarding child pornography posted in an online group. The CyberTipline Analyst was able to determine a possible name and address of the suspect and forwarded it to local law enforcement. The suspect was arrested and sentenced to 20 years in prison. His daughter has been adopted and is now in a healthy environment.
- The CyberTipline received a report regarding newsgroup postings containing child pornography. Analysis conducted on the "header" of the postings provided a possible location for the suspect. The information was forwarded to local law enforcement, and the suspect was arrested. At the time of his arrest the suspect had many foster children in his home who were rescued.
- A CyberTipline report was made regarding a 44-year-old man who had met a 13-year-old child on the Internet. The report indicated the man was headed to an airport to pick the child up. A CyberTipline Analyst conducted extensive searches. The searches revealed the make and model of car the man was driving and the fact he had a criminal history as a convicted child sex offender. Through coordinated efforts among various law-enforcement agencies, the suspect was quickly apprehended before the child was harmed.

WHO WE ARE

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children was established in 1984 as a private, nonprofit organization and serves as a clearinghouse of information about missing and exploited children per federal statutes 42 U.S.C. §§ 5771 *et seq.*; 42 U.S.C. § 11606; and 22 C.F.R. § 94.6. The 24-hour, toll-free Hotline and CyberTipline are available for those who have information about missing and sexually exploited children at 1-800-843-5678 and www.cybertipline.com.

In 1996 the U.S. Congress established the Exploited Child Unit within NCMEC. ECU is not an investigative agency, but rather a resource center and clearinghouse for families, law enforcement, public and private agencies, legislators, and other professionals offering services including

- **Queries** of historical CyberTipline reports, **analysis** of "header" information in E-mails and newsgroup postings, **examination** of chatroom logs, E-mail and public-record-database **searches** for law enforcement regarding cases of child sexual exploitation
- **Publications and training** for law enforcement regarding cases of child sexual exploitation

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SERVICES AND RESOURCES OFFERED BY NCMEC'S EXPLOITED CHILD UNIT, PLEASE VISIT WWW.CYBERTIPLINE.COM OR CALL **1-800-843-5678**. ALSO PLEASE VISIT THE NETSMARTZ WORKSHOP™ AT WWW.NETSMARTZ.ORG FOR INFORMATION REGARDING INTERNET SAFETY.



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The CyberTipline® handles leads concerning

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- Child victims of prostitution
- Sex tourism involving children
- Extrafamilial molestation of children
- Unsolicited, obscene material sent to a child
- Misleading domain names in partnership with



Report these crimes online at www.cybertipline.com or by calling **1-800-843-5678**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about child-safety issues, please visit NCMEC's web site at www.missingkids.com or the NetSmartz Workshop™ at www.Netsmartz.org.