



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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ON LINE CHAT ROOMS

Chat rooms allow you to communicate around the world with groups of people and individuals. They can be based on interests or hobbies, set up by individuals, groups, internet service providers or companies. Guard your private information and identity as you would in any other public place. Check out safety messages at the site and report wrongful conduct. Chat rooms can be used by deceitful and manipulative people so be very careful about revealing your name, address and e-mail address. Be extremely cautious about meeting an on-line friend in person. Think twice before using links from chat room sites as the links may carry viruses, download spyware or link you to objectionable sites.

Monitor your children's participation in chat rooms. Check out the sites they visit to be sure they are appropriate. Set rules for your children to follow including:

- Never give personal information in a chat room such as your name, address, phone number, school, or parents' names
- Immediately leave the chat room if they feel uncomfortable or fearful and tell you or another adult what happened
- Never agree to meet or talk on the phone with anyone they meet in a chat room unless you approve and you are present