



Thomas A. Thompson, Prosecuting Attorney, Williams Co., Ohio

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September 19, 2008 NEWS RELEASE

INTERNET SAFETY DAY

Williams County Prosecuting Attorney Tom Thompson has declared September 28th “Internet Safety Day” in Williams County. With children and teens just getting back to school, they are spending more time on computers doing homework and research. Parents should take this opportunity to learn about their child’s Internet activities.

Internet Safety Day was started right here in Ohio through the efforts of Brian Rice. Mr. Rice wanted to draw attention to the important role that the Internet is playing in the lives of our youth and encourage parents to take an active interest. This year Mr. Rice is expanding his efforts to include communities throughout Ohio and other parts of the United States in Internet Safety Day.

Because some parents may not feel confident when discussing Internet safety with their children due to a lack of experience with computers or the Internet, Mr. Rice has authored a helpful Parent Guide. The free Parent Guide can be found at www.InternetSafetyDay.com. This guide

includes a list of some of the common acronyms, symbols and abbreviations used by youth in texting, instant messaging and chat rooms along with the associated meanings. It also discusses Internet predators and ways they lure children into inappropriate relationships. The Parent's Guide explains how instant messaging, chat rooms, social networking sites, E-mail, file sharing, search engines and proxy sites work, as well as the dangers of cyber bullying, web video, spam and phishing.

It is important for parents to take the initiative to monitor what their kids are doing online. Many kids are involved in online activities such as chat rooms and social networking websites where they are susceptible to inappropriate communication, including cyber bullying and potential predators. These dangers can be avoided with parental involvement and guidance. Parents need to know how their children are representing themselves and what they are doing online. On September 28th, please set aside 30 minutes to sit down with your children and discuss what they do online and talk to them about Internet Safety.

See prior press releases at www.williamscountyprosecutor.org