



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

PRESS RELEASE

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September 20, 2011 NEWS RELEASE – Internet Safety Day

INTERNET SAFETY DAY 2011, SEPTEMBER 25th

Bryan, Ohio —Williams County Prosecutor Tom Thompson is encouraging parents and guardians to take part in Internet Safety Day 2011 on September 25th. With computers, I-Pads, internet equipped gaming systems and internet-capable cell phones becoming more readily available to children than they have been in the past, there is no better time to sit down and have a chat with your children about what it means to “be safe” while surfing the Internet.

Years ago, society was much less technologically-dependent than the world today’s children are growing into. Without adult guidance, children are forced to maneuver through the online world alone, a world which has the potential of being dangerous. A parent can learn a lot from their child’s Internet activities, simply through a quick thirty-minute conversation. Important topics to cover include everything from implementing privacy settings on social networking sites such as Facebook to asking them about their Internet habits and typical sites they visit the most.

Many parents may think their child may know more about the Internet than they do, but there is always a chance to learn. For instance, if your child spends a majority of time on Facebook or Yahoo Messenger, create your own accounts. This not only gives you a better understanding of what each site’s activities entail, but also lets your children know that you may just be as computer-savvy as they are. Educating your children on what online activities are acceptable and how to avoid revealing too much information to online friends is key.

Monitoring and becoming familiar with your child’s Internet habits is not an invasion of privacy or a way to spy on the activities of your children. Choose to think of it as a safety precaution. Most parents would never drop their child off unattended in an unfamiliar neighborhood, nor would they allow a strange adult to take their child home from school. Keeping this in mind, wouldn’t it make you feel better to sit down with your child and have an “Internet Chat?” That’s what Internet Safety Day is all about.

See prior press releases at www.williamscountyprosecutor.org