



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
District of Arizona

Two Renaissance Square
40 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1200
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4408

(602) 514-7500
FAX: (602) 514-7693
Direct FAX: (602) 514-7586

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Dear Parents, Teachers, Principals, and Community Members:

Summer is fast approaching and soon children will be out of school and enjoying their free time. We live in a digital age, and there are countless fun and interesting Internet-related activities and web sites vying for your child's attention when they are online. But there are also dangers.

We would like your help in protecting Arizona students from predators who lurk on the Internet. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's publication *Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later*, 13 percent of elementary aged children have received some type of sexual solicitation or approach through the Internet. In Arizona, 13 percent amounts to almost 75,590 of the 581,464 elementary-aged kids who would be on the receiving end of such solicitations. Of these, only 5 percent of those sexually solicited and 2 percent who encountered unwanted sexual material online told an adult. In addition, "sexting" and cyberbullying also pose risks to children. According to a Pew Internet and American Life Project study in 2010, approximately 33 percent of 12- to 17-year-olds, mostly girls, have been cyberbullied.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (www.nemec.org) has created, "Take 25," a national child safety campaign designed to encourage parents and guardians to take time to talk to their children about ways to stay safe both online and offline. We have enclosed a copy for you to share of "25 ways to Keep Kids Safe." If you would like an electronic copy of this enclosure, it can be found at <http://www.take25.org/page.asp?page=50>. Because we cannot speak to every child, we hope parents, guardians, and teachers will talk about these safety tips with their children so that every Arizona child will be safer.

We appreciate your assistance in this endeavor. Please do not hesitate to give me or Carin Duryee, our Project Safe Childhood Coordinator and lead Internet exploitation prosecutor, a call at 520-620-7300 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DENNIS K. BURKE
United States Attorney
District of Arizona