

## Keep Yourself Safe!

- Trust your instincts—if a situation or person makes you uncomfortable, even if you know the individual, get away; even at the risk of being rude.
- Be wary of friends or dates that “test” your boundaries with unwanted physical advances.



## Child Protection!

- Develop and foster open lines of communication with your children.
- Know where your child is, and the people they spend time with.
- Screen baby-sitters, coaches and other care-givers. Ask for referrals and call each one.
- Be sensitive to changes in your child’s behavior.
- Spend time with your kids.
- Listen to your children and pay attention if they don’t want to be with someone.
- Notice anyone who provides or gives special favors to your child or manipulates situations to get time alone with your child.
- Tell your children that it’s always wrong for adults to engage children in sexual activity.
- Teach your children they can say **NO** to anything that makes them uncomfortable.
- Remember that 90% of the time, a child who is molested is molested by someone they know. Your safety efforts must focus on known perpetrators as well as “stranger danger.”
- Reinforce the practice of the **TAKE FIVE SAFER STEPS TO BE SAFE NOW**®.
- Eliminate or decrease one-adult/one child interactions. (According to the *Darkness to Light* organization, this would eliminate 80% of child sexual abuse.)
- Knowledge is power—teach your children about their bodies and their right to control their private parts.
- Understand that there are evaluations, early interventions and treatment available for children, teenagers, or adults who are discovered to have a sexual interest in children or younger children.
- Contact local law enforcement to start or join a local neighborhood watch program.
- Visit the national sex offender registry online: [www.nsopr.gov](http://www.nsopr.gov)
- Install *MAX Protect for Kids*™ on your home computer, or any computer used by children. This innovative software is truly preventative and will terminate any online communication that matches against a database of terms and keywords defined by law enforcement that are commonly used by sexual predators. A screen capture is made of the communication and sent to an authority figure. This image includes the IP address of the person sending the communication and can be used by law enforcement to investigate attempted online sex crimes.
- INVEST IN PREVENTION!!! Make a donation to SAFENOWPROJECT to support community education and advocacy. Dollars spent preventing child sexual abuse is money well spent—reducing crimes and much greater dollars spent once victimization occurs.

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