

The seal of the Ohio Attorney General is a circular emblem. It features a central landscape with a sun rising over mountains and a field. The words "THE SEAL OF THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL" are inscribed around the perimeter. A banner at the bottom contains the motto "ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE" and a five-pointed star is positioned below the banner.

# Protecting Children Online and On Your Street

# What we're here to talk about:

- Runaways
- Abductions
- Internet Dangers
- Safety Tips



# Statistics:

- It is estimated that 1.3 million kids go missing each year in America.
- Over 20,000 are reported missing in Ohio each year.
- Currently in Ohio,
  - ❖ 1478 kids are missing.



# Running Away

- Eighty to eighty-five percent of missing reports are for “runaways”.
- Many are found quickly, but about 2,000 runaway kids each year are missing for more than 24 hours.
- Many of these kids become victims of crimes.



# Running Away

- **Reasons kids run away from home:**
  - ❖ **Arguments with family members**
  - ❖ **Physical abuse**
  - ❖ **Sexual abuse**
  - ❖ **Problems at school**
  - ❖ **Problems with friends**
  - ❖ **Drugs/alcohol**
  - ❖ **Peer pressure**



# Runaway

- What happens when a child runs away from home:
  - ❖ Targeted by criminals
  - ❖ Physical abuse
  - ❖ Sexual abuse



# Runaway

➤ Who can help a child who has run away:

- ❖ Parents
- ❖ Siblings
- ❖ Friends
- ❖ Teacher
- ❖ Counselor
- ❖ Police Officer
- ❖ Preacher/Priest



# Abduction

## ➤ Child abductions

- ❖ 58,000 per year in U.S.
- ❖ Average abducted child is a 13 year old female
- ❖ Taken for control and sex
- ❖ Abductor is usually someone with whom the child is at least somewhat familiar
- ❖ Occurs close to home



# What can you do?

## ❖ 5 Rules to keep your child safe:

- **Encourage children to not travel alone** - There is safety in numbers and this rule is not just for little kids.
- **Keep track of where children are going**- If trouble does arise, family, friends and law enforcement will know where to start looking.
- **Teach children to never accept a ride from someone unless parents are aware and agree**-Even someone a child is familiar with may offer rides without parents permission. That could be harmless, or it might not be.



# What can you teach your children to help them avoid becoming a victim?

- **It's your body-** You have the right to reject unwanted and inappropriate attention such as teasing, touching and bullying.
- **Say no if you feel threatened and tell a trusted adult-** If someone, or anyone touches you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable, you have the right to say “no”!



# The Internet

## ➤ Internet crimes

❖ The internet mirrors the “real world”.

- Children *will* receive unwanted sexual messages/images
- People wanting to meet in person
- Identity Theft
- People can post whatever they like about whomever they want.
- Question
  - ✓ Would you meet me after this to discuss your personal thoughts and provide me information detailed above?
  - ✓ How do you know for sure who you are talking with on the internet?



# *Predators “Entice”*

- Teach children that if anyone,
  - ❖ Talks about inappropriate things
  - ❖ Sends sexually explicit images or messages
  - ❖ Asks for your personal information
  - ❖ Wants you to do things that make you uncomfortable
  - ❖ Wants to meet you in person

**They should talk to an adult they trust!**



# Cyber Bullying

## *What is Cyber Bullying?*

- ❖ Spreading rumors and gossip online
- ❖ Posting pictures without consent
- ❖ Stealing passwords to assume someone else's identity
- ❖ Harassing or threatening with mean or bad language online



# Cyber Bullying

- Impact can be enormous, can cause a loss of self esteem and dignity, and can cause children to believe that:
  - ❖ Their life is ruined.
  - ❖ Their reputation is destroyed forever.
  - ❖ They will have to live with defamation the rest of their lives.



# *Safety Tips: What Children Can Do to Protect Themselves Online*

- **Restrict access to profiles**
- **Choose a gender-neutral screen name or nickname**
- **Use the privacy settings on social-networking sites to restrict access to one's own "space" or blog**
- **Never give out personal information or arrange to meet in person with someone they've met online**
- **IM only people they know in person**
- **Don't respond to offensive messaging**
- **Think before typing, "Is this message hurtful or rude?"**



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