



Royal Bahamas Police Force

Working together for a safe Bahamas

Internet Safety For Adults

Though many news stories about Internet safety today focus on children and teens, the fact is that adults have several risks when they go online. Crimes such as sexual predation don't just happen to young people; criminals don't only hang out in teen social networking sites; and an adult's personal and financial information and buying habits are of great value in the Internet's underground economy.

Safeguarding Your Privacy

You can never be sure who you are chatting with online. The friendly fellow movie fan or book lover in an online forum may actually be a clever criminal looking for his next cyber crime victim.

How can you have fun online while protecting yourself?

- Do not post information that will identify you, including:
 - Your full name.
 - Your home address or phone number.
 - Passwords.
 - Credit card or bank account numbers.
 - Names of family members or friends.
 - Your workplace or favorite hangout, or the names of your clubs or organizations to
 - Historical information that could identify your past residences.
 - Do not use a nickname that can be used to identify you
 - Never share your account password.

Protect Your Computer System

- Shut down your computer when it is not in use — especially in public places.
- Keep your antivirus and anti spy ware programs, other software and operating systems updated to protect against new attacks.
- Consider using a firewall on your system to protect against hackers accessing your system remotely.

Staying Safe Using Blogs, Chat Rooms, E-Mail, Instant Messaging And More

Fast friendships are forged over the Internet — and there is no doubt that casual, online conversations sometimes are the foundation of good, lasting relationships. However, the anonymity of the Internet may compel some individuals to reveal too much about their private lives or to make hurtful comments or accusations they would never make in person.

- **Think** about how your e-mail message will be read by others. Do not say anything online that is cruel or may damage someone's reputation.
- **Do not** give out personal information about someone else.
- **Do not** forward another individual's e-mail without their permission.
- **Never** allow anyone to photograph you in an embarrassing or compromising situation.
- **Never** post anything that would cause you embarrassment or shame.
- **Do not** send photos of yourself or family members to Internet acquaintances.

Social Networking

Be Smart, Be Safe: Meeting Someone You Met Online

Individuals misrepresent themselves online. Often the lies are small and harmless. But sometimes they are not.

Here are some basic safety tips

- Speak by phone before agreeing to a meeting. Often, hearing an individual's voice and engaging in verbal conversation is very revealing.
- Learn as much as you can about the individual and verify that information.
- Do not go alone. Take along a trusted friend.
- Arrange to meet in a public place — a restaurant, a coffee shop or even a museum.

Police Emergency

911

National Crime Prevention Office

302-8430/1

www.royalbahamaspolice.org

"To make The Bahamas a safer place to live, work, visit and play."

Crime Stoppers

328-TIPS (8477)

Family Islands

(242) 300-8476