

The internet is an easy way to communicate with anyone anywhere in the world.

What should I be aware of when using social networking websites such as Facebook and Twitter?

Anyone can view your profile. That may include people who are important in your life, such as:

- Friends
- Family
- Teachers
- Coworkers
- Future employers
- Community members
- Online acquaintances
- People you do not know

What am I at risk for when social networking?

- Cyberstalking
- Cyberbullying
- Sexual exploitation
- Sexual predators
- Identity theft
- Hate crimes
- Embarrassment

How can I protect myself?

- Use privacy settings that are provided by the social network. Limit the information that can be seen by everyone.
- Use caution when adding someone to your friend list. Do not agree to meet someone in person you just met online. If you decide to meet someone, take someone along with you and meet in a public place.
- Do not put personal information in your profile such as your phone number, address, and financial information. Be cautious about where you post your date of birth.
- Be aware when posting inappropriate information, pictures, and other material. Other people such as family members, teachers, and even future employers may have access to your profile.
- Always think before you post! Think twice before posting spur of the moment thoughts and feelings on Facebook & Twitter.
- For social networking websites such as Facebook, be aware that once you decide to delete your profile, your personal information may still be available to obtain. Make sure to check the social networking website's policies on deleting your profile.