

In 1998, 13 year old Christina Long was a straight “A” student. Popular in school and captain of her cheerleading squad, she was also a frequent user of Internet “Chat Rooms”. Christina agreed to meet the man who she had talked to on a chat room. The man later confessed to killing her. Christina is believed to be the first known homicide resulting from an Internet meeting.

In December of 2002 a man was arrested in Massillon, Ohio after traveling from New York to meet a “13 year old girl”, he met on the Internet. The girl was actually a Police Detective posing as the girl.

Stories like this are becoming all too common. As in our “real” world, our children are faced with daily situations online that require them to use thinking and decision making skills they may not have.

According to the FBI, in 2001 they investigated over 1,500 cases of people using the internet to commit crimes involving child pornography or abuse. In 1995 they investigated only 113 such cases.

## **A PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFETY**

**The Summit county Sheriff’s Office, under the leadership of Sheriff Alexander is proud to partner with i-SAFE America.**

**i-SAFE America is a nonprofit organization, funded by a \$5 million grant that equips children with the decision making and critical thinking skills they need to have a safe internet experience.**

**The Summit County Sheriff’s Office is pleased to provide the I-SAFE Education Initiative and Outreach Campaign to over 4000 children during the school year.**

<b>FOR MORE INFORMATION</b>
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**Please contact Sgt. Roger Tackett at (330) 643-8617 or visit these websites for additional information about internet safety.**

**i-SAFE AMERICA**

[www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org)

**Summit County Sheriff’s Office**

[www.co.summit.oh.us/sheriff](http://www.co.summit.oh.us/sheriff)

**The FBI**

[www.fbi.gov/publicatios/pguide/pguidee.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/publicatios/pguide/pguidee.htm)

**Get Net Wise**

[www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org)



**Dedicated to your family’s safety.**



***Drew Alexander  
Summit County Sheriff***

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(330) 643-2181**

[www.co.summit.oh.us/sheriff](http://www.co.summit.oh.us/sheriff)



From birth we watch over and protect our children. We teach them to cross the streets and beware of the dangers of strangers. Now we must make them aware of a whole new set of dangers. Just as we teach them about the dangers in our real world, we must teach them about the very real dangers that start in the "cyber world".

The Internet is a wonderful tool, bringing the world to our fingertips it has changed the way many of us live our lives. From shopping, to banking, to education, the use of the Internet is a part of our daily lives. But, there is a dark side of the Internet. We must be aware and educated about the dangers that the Internet can bring.

One of the goals of the Summit County Sheriff's Office is to work together with the citizens of Summit County to raise public awareness regarding Internet safety. We hope to educate the community about how to recognize and protect themselves from online dangers and take control of their Internet experience. We urge you to join us in our efforts to help kids and teens become safer and more responsible Cyber Citizens.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew Alexander".

**Drew Alexander**  
Sheriff

## CONSIDER THESE FACTS

- One in five children under the age of 17 has received unwanted sexual solicitation.  
In 1996, 13 children were reported abducted due to the internet. The number of reported abductions jumped to over 800 by 1999.\*
- There are an estimated 400,000 adult websites; 1 in 4 children have been exposed to pornography involuntarily.\*\*
- The Simon Weisenthal Center has Identified over 3,000 websites that promote hate, violence and Terrorism.\*\*\*
- > 1 in 33 children/teens have received an aggressive solicitation to meet somewhere, and 49% of online solicitations are not disclosed.\*\*\*\*

\* National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Guidelines for Programs to Reduce Child Victimization, copyright 1999.

\*\* APB News.com, Children Find Sex Online, 6/9/00

\*\*\* BBC News.com, Battling Online Hate, 8/20/01

\*\*\*\* Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth, Crimes Against Children, NCMEC

## TIPS FOR KIDS

1. **Never** give out personal information like name, age, gender, phone number or school.
2. **Never** write to someone who makes you feel uncomfortable, even if you know them
3. **Never** meet someone or have them visit you without your parents permission.
4. **Tell** a trusted adult right away if you read or see anything on the Internet that makes you feel uncomfortable
5. **Remember** that people online may not be who they say they are.

## THE i-SAFE MISSION

**i-SAFE'S Mission is to educate and empower youth to take control of their Internet experience.**

## WHAT CAN YOU DO

1. Keep the computer in a common room, not in your child's bedroom.
2. Spend time with your children online and have them show you their favorite online destinations.
3. Utilize parental controls provided by your service provider and maintain access to your child's account.

## EMPOWERING STUDENTS

The goal of i-SAFE is to educate every student in grades K-12 and encouraging them to: **R**ecognize techniques used by online predators, **R**efuse requests for personal information, **R**espond assertively by turning off the computer or exiting the application and to **R**eport suspicious or dangerous contacts online.

## i-SAFE in the Classroom

The curriculum for grades K-8 covers: Living as a Net Citizen in the Cyber Community, Personal Safety, Viruses, Theft of Intellectual Property, Law Enforcement and Internet Safety. Grades 9-12 covers: Privacy and the Internet, webcast issues and Cyber Relationships.