

THE TROUBLE WITH myspace.com

1. What is myspace.com?

Myspace.com was initially developed in 2004 by two young men in California as a simple place for people to put a web site and have social interaction. It has since been bought for \$580 million by media czar Rupert Murdoch. Essentially, it is a web site where anyone- **ANYONE** - can put up a homepage and the begin receiving and sending messages, music and videos throughout the myspace server.

2. Who is on myspace.com?

The easiest answer is **EVERYONE!** It currently has over 70 million members. Membership is free and you do not need a credit card or age verification of any sort. It is currently the 3rd most popular website on the internet.

3. What are the problems with myspace.com?

Police Departments across the country are reporting numerous incidents of pedophiles who have contacted victims and potential victims over the site. (1) a Connecticut man was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a 13 year old girl he met on myspace (2) A young man in East Hampton, threatened fellow students with violence and posted pro-Nazi material on his page. Also, kids put their personal information on their page and that can be accessed by all visitors and can place your child at risk.

4. What can I do about it?

Ask your child if they are on the site and ask to see their webpage. Create your own password and search myspace for your school name or other information to find if your child has another webpage or just to see what other kids in the district are up to. Tell your kids not to believe everything they see on myspace **especially** not to believe what other people say about themselves (their age for instance). Tell them not to post personal information on their pages (like their D-O-B) or embarrassing photos that they do not want spread all over the Internet. There are privacy features on myspace that allow you to require knowing your email address or last name to send you information or a request. (Go to the Edit Profile page to access this function). You can also check a box that allows you to "Approve Comments before Posting" so that someone can't post comments on your page without approval. You can also download a webfilter or blocking program from Netnanny.com. Myspace also has a special hotline and downloadable help guide for school officials.

5. The following sites also provide useful advice for cybersafety:

safekids.com; wiredsafety.org; netsmartz.org; getnetwise.org .This flyer is the copyrighted material of The Law Squad™ and may not be used without the express written consent of The Law Squad. For further information on this topic please contact us at 516 746-0459 or online at **thelawsquad.com**