

SCREEN SAFETY

Use privacy settings for social media and apps.

Check your privacy settings on social media and apps. These settings let you decide who sees your information and posts. Choose settings like “private” or “friends.” These settings are helpful, but nothing you do online is truly private. Think about what you are sharing and who you are sharing it with. (See more info on page 2.)

Only communicate with people that you know in person.

Know that the stories or information that is shared with you on your devices may not be true. Know that the people you meet through your devices may not be who they say they are. That’s why it’s best to only communicate with people that you know in person. Only accept someone as a social media friend if you know them in real life and trust them. A friend of a friend is not necessarily a safe person.

Avoid posting personal information.

This includes email address, phone number, home address, city, school name or plans for where you will be or like to go. Don’t give this information to anyone you don’t know in person. Avoid posting a photo with your house number or license plate.

Don’t meet someone in person that you met on a screen.

The only exception to this is when a parent or guardian thinks it’s a good idea and is involved.

Use safe search mode when surfing the web.

Safe search mode helps block inappropriate content. Visit the website for the search engine you use (such as Google or Bing). Under the settings you’ll find an option to turn on a safe search mode. Choose the strict option if given several options.

Don’t open emails/files/links from people you don’t know.

Sometimes predators send inappropriate images or videos. Predators can even hide code in items they send to you. If you click on the file, a hidden spyware might be installed on your device, allowing a predator to watch you through your camera.

Use apps and sites that are parent/guardian approved.

Use trusted apps. Turn off location/camera/microphone.

A trafficker or predator can actually spy on you through your devices. Anyone can create an app. When you download an app, the creator of the app gains access to you and your information. Protect yourself by using trusted apps with hundreds of good ratings. Turn off location, camera and microphone options in the device settings for each of your apps. Turn these off for all the apps that come with your device and every app you add. This provides protection from someone accessing your camera and microphone to spy on you. It also protects your location when you take a photo or post a comment. With locations turned on, a trafficker can figure out where you are when you take or post a photo or comment. (See more info on page 2.)

Don’t look at, make, send or request nude images.

Traffickers post and sell pornography online that was illegally obtained through sex trafficking. Sharing or viewing nude images or videos of individuals under the age of 18 or non-consenting adults is illegal (even if it’s a picture of yourself). It’s also important to understand that some pornography is trafficking. To avoid unknowingly taking part in criminal activity, don’t create, send, save or look at photos and videos of people without clothing. Don’t ask someone to send this type of image to you. Even an app that deletes images after sending is not safe to use since these images can still be accessed. If you see inappropriate images, leave a screen right away and tell a safe adult. At your age, anyone who asks you to create, send or look at this content is not a safe person, even if it is someone you are dating or know well.

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Many social media platforms allow others to identify your location. In order to keep yourself safe from potential predators make sure to update your location settings for each application on your mobile phone.

How to turn off location services on iPhone:

Tap on **Settings**> **Privacy**> **Location Services** > Turn **Location Services** on or off by tapping on the toggle button

How to manage app permissions on iPhone:

Tap on **Settings** >**Privacy** >**Location Services** > Tap the app you want to manage > tap on the on/off toggle to enable or disable access to your location for each application.

Here you can read a general description on how the application utilizes your location. You can allow access to your location for that specific app by tapping on **While using the app** or deny access to your location by tapping on **Never**.

How to turn off location services on Android:

Tap on **Settings**> **Security & Location**> **Location** > Turn **Use Location** on or off

How to manage app permissions on Android:

Tap on **Settings** >**Apps & Notifications** >**Advanced** >**App Permissions** > Tap the app you want to manage > tap on the on/off toggle to enable or disable access to your location for each application

Learn more about managing your privacy settings at: <https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/how-to-manage-your-privacy-settings-on-social-media/>.