FACEBOOK: Safety for Teens

Using Facebook safely is important at any age. Teens can find answers to their unique safety questions here.

General Safety Information
How can I be safer on Facebook?

First, don't give out your password to anyone, not even your significant other or best friend. Be sure to customize your privacy settings on the Privacy Settings page if you are uncomfortable being found in searches or having your profile viewed by people from your school or work networks. Remember, unless you're prepared to attach something in your profile to a resume or scholarship application, don't post it.

What other resources are available regarding internet safety?

Here are some websites with valuable information:
A Thin Line
Beatbullying.org
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)
Childnet-int.org
Commonsense.org
ConnectSafely.org
Cyberbullying Research Center
FOSI.org
NCMEC.org
NetSmartz.org
OnguardOnline.gov
TRUSTe.org
UK Council for Child Internet Safety
WebWiseKids.org
WiredSafety
STOP cyberbullying
Teenangels
WiredKids

Where else can I report inappropriate or objectionable actions that have been taken against children?

Facebook takes the safety of its users very seriously and takes significant efforts to make sure that the interactions encountered on the site are done so in a safe manner. We strongly urge all users to report suspicious people and inappropriate content when they come across it on the site. You can notify Facebook of any inappropriate people or content by clicking on the "Report" link located throughout the site. Users under the age of 18 are also encouraged to talk to a parent or a responsible adult immediately if someone online says or does something to make them feel
uncomfortable or threatened in any way.

If you are living in the United Kingdom, under 18, and believe that an adult is acting inappropriately towards you on Facebook, please submit an online report to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP):

(If you are a parent or other adult and concerned about a minor, you can also submit a report by clicking on the link above.)

Addressing Personal Safety
I'm receiving unwanted messages. What should I do?

There are a few things you can do:
You can anonymously report messages by clicking on the "Report Message" link under the name and picture of the sender when viewing their message. Facebook will review your complaint and will act to ensure all users comply with our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities so that Facebook remains a trusted environment where people can interact safely.
You can easily block any user on Facebook from seeing or contacting you by navigating to the "Block List" section on the Privacy Settings page and entering their name or email address in the appropriate fields.
You can limit the people who can find you in searches from the "Basic Directory Information" section of the Privacy Settings page, which in turn limits who can message you. You can also prevent people from messaging you from your search listing from the "Contact Information" section of the Privacy Settings page.

I'm receiving unwanted Wall posts. What should I do?

There are a couple of options available:
You can remove any offensive Wall postings by clicking on the "Remove" link that appears on each posting.
If you would like to prevent the individual from leaving any more unwanted postings, just remove the person as a friend from the Friends page. Only your friends can post on your Wall.

What can I do to prevent or address cyberbullying?

We want Facebook to remain an environment where people can connect and share comfortably. Cyberbullying is defined as the use of any new technology to harass or intimidate someone, and there are steps you can take to prevent this kind of behavior if it occurs.

Accept Friend Requests Safely

In order to prevent harassment from strangers, be careful to accept friend requests only from people you know in real life. Also, remember to report any messages or profiles that look suspicious. Facebook is based on a real-name culture, and fake profiles are regularly disabled when they're reported to us. Please also keep in mind that only confirmed friends can post to your Wall or contact you via Facebook Chat,
so if you're worried that someone will make inappropriate posts or send offensive messages, just ignore that person's friend request.

Use the "Block" Feature to Stop Abusive Behaviour

Blocking someone prevents them from viewing your profile. When you block people, any ties you currently have with them will be broken, and they won't be able to contact you on Facebook. If you receive inappropriate or abuse communication, you can block the person by going to the Block Lists section on the bottom of the Privacy Settings page.

Report Abusive Behaviour Directly to Facebook

The most efficient way to report abuse is to do it in the same place it occurs on Facebook. For example, if you receive a harassing message in your Inbox, you can report the message by clicking on the "Report" link next to the sender's name as you are reading the message. If you receive a harassing message from a person who is a Facebook friend of yours, you should remove the person as a friend and report the message. Reporting the message as harassing will automatically add this person to your Block list. You can also use the "Report/Block person" link that appears at the bottom of the abusive user's profile. If you learn that someone is continuing to make abusive comments about you even after you've blocked them, you can ask a friend to report that person on your behalf. Reports are confidential and the user being reported does not know that they have been reported. After a report is submitted, we will investigate the issue and make a determination as to whether or not the content should remain on the site based on our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities. A Facebook administrator looks into each report thoroughly before taking action. Please note that our team makes it a priority to respond to reports of harassing messages on the site.

Restrict Privacy Settings

To restrict the amount of information that potential bullies may have access to, customize your privacy settings so that certain people can't access information like your Wall, photos, or profile. You can also change your privacy settings if you are uncomfortable being found in searches or having your profile viewed publicly. Privacy on Facebook is controlled primarily from the Privacy Settings page. This page is always available by navigating to the "Privacy Settings" option in the Account drop-down menu available from the top of every page. Please note that minors do not have public search listings created for them, so they do not appear in outside search engines until they have turned 18.

Respond to Abusers in the Right Way

Cyberbullies often seek a reaction from the people they harass. When they fail to get one, they often give up gradually. Rather than responding to a bully via Inbox, a Wall post, or Facebook Chat, you can use the "Block" or "Report" functions to resolve the issue safely. Remember, only confirmed friends can post to your Wall or send you a message through Chat. If you are receiving posts and Chat messages you don't like, you should consider removing the sender from your friends list. Please note that you should also contact the authorities if you ever feel threatened by something you see on the site.
Facebook is a founding member of the StopCyberbullying Coalition affiliated with stopcyberbullying.org.

**What do I do if someone is pretending to be me on Facebook?**

If someone has created an account to impersonate or imitate you, please go to the impostor profile and click "Report/Block this person" at the bottom of the left column. Check the "Report this Person" box, choose "Fake Profile" as the reason, and add "Impersonating me or someone else" as the report type. Be sure to add a valid web address (URL) leading to the real profile so that we can review the information.

![Report/Block this Person](image)

**What happens when I report someone?**

All abuse reports on Facebook are confidential. The user that you are reporting will not know that you have reported them. After the report is submitted, Facebook investigates the issue and makes a determination as to whether or not the content should remain on the site based on our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities. In certain situations, the circumstances require more severe action. For instance, users who repeatedly violate our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities can be permanently banned from the site.

Please be aware that not all reported content will be removed. A Facebook administrator looks into each report thoroughly in order to decide the appropriate course of action. If no violation of our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities has occurred, then no action will be taken.

**What do I do if someone is abusing or harassing me in an application?**

Facebook is not responsible for the support provided by this developer. Because the application was not built by Facebook and is operated by an outside developer with its own technical resources, you will need to contact the developer directly by following the directions outlined here to report this issue.

Facebook, however, does work to ensure that all outside developers are following our policies. If you find that the developer is unresponsive to your inquiry, please please report this application by following the directions outlined here.

In addition, we also recommend that you block both the application as well as the user to prevent further harassment. To prevent a specific application from accessing any of your information, follow these steps outlined here.

To block a user, please follow the instructions outlined here. Once you’ve blocked another user, they won't be able to find you in searches, view your profile, or contact you. They will also not be notified that you have blocked them.
What do I do if someone is harassing me on the site or through Inbox?

We suggest that you block the person using the "Block List" option at the bottom of the Privacy Settings page. If this does not resolve the problem, please report the user by clicking the "Report/Block this Person" link that appears at the bottom of the user's profile. To report a user for a message you have received, use the report link located next to the message in your Inbox. Note that you can only report messages from non-friends.

What do I do if someone is attacking me in Facebook Chat?

Please keep in mind that only your confirmed friends can contact you via Facebook Chat. We recommend that you remove this user from your Friend List. If necessary, you may block the person using the "Block List" option available from the bottom of the Privacy Settings page.

What do I do if someone is attacking me in a public forum?

We suggest that you block the person by listing his or her name in the "Blocking People" box at the bottom of the Privacy Settings page. If this does not resolve the problem, please report the user by clicking the 'Report/Block this Person' link that appears at the bottom of the user's profile.

What if my current or ex-boyfriend, girlfriend, or spouse is controlling or monitoring what I do on Facebook?
If your current or ex-boyfriend, girlfriend or spouse is controlling or monitoring your activity on Facebook, this could be a sign of relationship abuse. If you think this might be happening to you, please call the National Domestic Violence hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE to find out about resources in your community and get additional safety information.

You may also want to consider restricting privacy on your Facebook account so that certain people can’t access information like your Wall, photos, or profile. Remember that computer usage can be monitored. If you’re afraid that your computer isn’t safe, use a friend's computer or a computer in a public place, or visit http://stoprelationshipabuse.org/techsafe.html to learn more about computer safety.

**What do I do if someone has posted a photo of me that I don't like?**

Facebook will only remove photos that violate our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities (e.g., pornography or copyrighted images). However, there are some things you can do if you don't like a photo of you on the site:

To remove your name from a particular photo, simply view the photo and click the "Remove Tag" link next to your name. It will no longer be linked to your profile.

Remember that you can only be tagged in photos by your friends. If you are having problems with someone constantly tagging you in embarrassing photos, just remove them as a friend from the Friends page.

If you don't want the photo to be shown at all, please talk to the person who posted it. They should be respectful enough to remove unwanted photos. Unfortunately, Facebook cannot make users remove photos that do not violate our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities.

**What do I do when someone has identified me as being in a photo that I'm not in?**

Simply view the photo and click the "Remove Tag" link next to your name. The photo will no longer be linked to your profile.

**How do I help someone who has posted suicidal content on Facebook?**

If you have encountered a direct threat of suicide on Facebook, please immediately contact law enforcement. For reports in the United States, we also recommend that you contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a 24/7 hotline, at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). If possible, please encourage the user who posted the content to contact Lifeline as well.

You can view a list of suicide prevention hotlines in other countries by visiting http://www.befrienders.org and choosing from the dropdown menu at the top of the page.

We encourage you to learn about how to identify and respond to warning signs of suicidal behavior online at the following address:
You can submit reports of suicidal content to Facebook by clicking here.

**How do I report abuse?**

The best way to flag abusive content on the site is to use the "Report" links that appear near the content itself. When a report is submitted, we will review it and take any action warranted by our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities. To submit a report, please take the steps listed below:

- Report a profile: Go to the profile and click the "Report/Block this Person" link that appears in the left column below the profile photo.
- Report a photo: Go to the specific photo and click the "Report This Photo" link that appears below the photo.
- Report an Inbox message: View the message and click the "Report Message" link that appears below the sender’s name. Note that you can only report messages from non-friends.
- Report a group or event: Go to its main page and click the "Report" link that appears below the group or event photo.
- Report a Page: View the Page and click the "Report Page" link that appears in the left column below the Page photo.

We also recommend that you consider blocking the user involved in the report. People you block won't be able to find you in searches, view your profile, or contact you with pokes, Wall posts, or personal messages. You can block people by adding their names to your block list at the bottom of the Privacy page, or by checking "Block this person" when you report them. These people will not be notified when you block them, and any existing ties you have with them will be removed.

For all reports, be sure to follow the instructions carefully when choosing the report category.

**Responding to Potentially Hurtful Content**

**What do I do if I find an explicit, hateful or otherwise objectionable profile on Facebook?**

We don't want any content like this on Facebook. You can help us out by notifying us of any objectionable profiles. You can anonymously report offensive profile pictures and content by clicking on the "Report/Block this person" link located at the bottom left of the profile page. You will be asked to specify the offensive content. Facebook will review your complaint and will act to ensure all users comply with our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities so that Facebook remains a trusted environment where people can interact safely.
What do I do if I find an explicit, hateful or otherwise objectionable group on Facebook?

You can anonymously report offensive group photos and content by clicking on the "Report Group" link located under the group's picture. You will be asked to specify the offensive content. Facebook will review your complaint and will act to ensure all users comply with our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities so that Facebook remains a trusted environment where people can interact safely.

Someone created an abusive group about me or my friend. What can I do?
You can anonymously report offensive group photos and content by clicking on the "Report Group" link located under the group's picture. You will be asked to specify the offensive content. Facebook will review your complaint and will act to ensure all users comply with our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities so that Facebook
remains a trusted environment where people can interact safely.

What do I do if I see something explicit, hateful, or otherwise objectionable in a link posted on Facebook?

You can anonymously report offensive links by clicking on the "Report" link located under the material. You will be asked to specify the offensive content. Facebook will review your complaint and will act to ensure all users comply with our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities so that Facebook remains a trusted environment where people can interact safely.

What do I do if someone has posted an objectionable photo on Facebook?

You can anonymously report photos that violate our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities (e.g., pornography) by clicking on the "Report This Photo" link in the bottom right corner below the picture. Facebook reviews these complaints and takes down photos as necessary. It is not a violation of our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities to post a photo that is unflattering, so please don't report a photo just because you don't like the way you look in it.

What if I see a hateful or otherwise objectionable note on Facebook?

You can anonymously report offensive note content and photos by clicking on the "Report This Note" link located below the text of each note. You will be asked to specify the offensive content. Facebook will review your complaint and will act to ensure all users comply with our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities so that Facebook remains a trusted environment where people can interact safely.
I saw an explicit, hateful or otherwise objectionable advertisement on Facebook. What do I do?
(Online form available through the Facebook help centre or online in the help section of Facebook)
Please fill out this form to report the advertisement. We will use our best efforts to remove any ads that violate our Advertising Guidelines or Statement of Rights and Responsibilities.