

# Online Gaming: Predators Lurking

**Online gaming platforms** give child predators a way to start a conversation with children: common interest in the game. It may start by offering tips or even game currency. And predators may pose as friendly adults or even age-appropriate peers.

Some games include team play, or allow players to communicate through headsets, web cameras, and chat rooms. This gives predators an opportunity to privately groom their intended victim, which may evolve into coercion to send sexually explicit images or videos, requests to meet in person, or sextortion.

**Time, attention, and active conversation** with your children are the best tools to protect them online. Talk about the games they play, sites they frequent, and friends they encounter. Discuss Internet safety and encourage them to come to you if something happens online that makes them uncomfortable.

**If you know of a child being exploited  
online, report it:**

**Report.CyberTip.org | 1-800-THE-LOST**



*Lynn Fitch*  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



**Children's**  
Advocacy Centers  
of Mississippi  
We Protect Children

## Additional tips to help protect your children online:

- Closely monitor your children's use of online services.
- Conduct regular Internet searches of your children's information to monitor the exposure and spread of their information on the Internet.
- Consider credit or identity theft monitoring to check for any fraudulent use of your children's identity.
- Conduct regular software updates to help stop security breaches.
- Do **NOT** delete messages from suspicious contacts. Keep all text, email, and other message interactions. These are critical pieces of evidence that support investigations and help stop predators.
- Do **NOT** provide detailed information on your children when creating user profiles. For example, use initials instead of full names, avoid using exact dates of birth, and avoid including photos.
- If you find nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit pictures of your child (up to age 18) online, visit **TakeltDown.NCMEC.org** for free help removing them from the Internet.

**For more resources to help keep your children safe online visit:**



*Lynn Fitch*  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

**[AttorneyGeneralLynnFitch.com/CAC](http://AttorneyGeneralLynnFitch.com/CAC)**



**[ChildAdvocacyMS.org](http://ChildAdvocacyMS.org)**