

# **ACTION PLAN**

## **Social Media Safety**

**Protecting the Youths in Your Care**

## Overview

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In this course, you will learn how to:

- Identify risks of using social media and other forms of electronic communication
  - Follow policies and best practices governing the use of social media and electronic communication
  - Educate youths and parents about online safety
  - Respond appropriately to improper and illegal use of social media/electronic communication
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## Lesson 1: Social Media Basics

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Social media use is widely accepted. Some benefits include being:

- Accepted
- Fast
- Easy

How is your program or location currently using social media and electronic communication to communicate with youths?

*Write your answer in the space below:*

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## Lesson 2: Risks of Using Social Media

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The downside to social media and electronic communication is that they can be an ideal way for people with bad intentions to get to know kids. Social media can give sexual offenders three things they need to perpetrate abuse:

- Access
- Privacy
- Control

In this lesson, you learned about risky behaviors that can make youths more vulnerable to abuse, including:

- Posting personal information online
- Discussing sex online
- Interacting online with unknown people
- Having unknown people on their friend list
- Sending personal information to unknown people met online
- Using the Internet to make rude and nasty comments to others
- Visiting X-rated sites

Also, in this lesson, you read about how offenders groom youths for abuse using social media and electronic communication. Have you heard of any similar situations happening in your community? Have you heard stories of youths using social media improperly, for instance to bully or to sext?

*Write your answer in the space below:*

## Lesson 3: Following Policies and Best Practices

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In this lesson, you learned the importance of following your organization's policies for using social media and electronic communication. How well do you know your organization's policies? If possible, find your policies before answering the questions below.

*Select the boxes with "yes" answers.*

- Do we use private group pages on our social media sites (such as Facebook)?
- Do we monitor our social media sites daily for inappropriate comments?
- Do we inform parents in writing that we are using social media/electronic communication to communicate with youths?
- Do we obtain written permission from the youth/parent/guardian before posting personal identifiable information and photos or videos of youths?
- Do we include parents/guardians on all texts and emails?

*Write down any other social media policies in place in your organization:*

## Lesson 4: Educating Youths and Parents

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In your interactions with youths and parents/guardians, take time to teach them about being safe online. *Select the boxes with “yes” answers.*

- Have we discussed risky online behaviors and the consequences of them?
- Have we explained the policies for using the organization’s computers?
- Have we explained our organization’s policies regarding social media and electronic communication?
- Have we shared these resources for online safety with parents?
  - National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:  
<http://www.netismartz.org/InternetSafety>
  - Enough is Enough organization:  
<http://www.internetsafety101.org/>

*Take notes in the space below:*

## Lesson 5: Responding and Reporting

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In this lesson, you learned the four steps for responding to and reporting inappropriate social media use:

- Watch
- Interrupt
- Report
- Check Back

*Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.*

1. The first step is to watch for interactions or behaviors that violate policies or that look suspicious or \_\_\_\_\_.
2. If you see someone breaking the rules, take \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Follow your organization's \_\_\_\_\_ for reporting.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ on the problem after you have reported it to see what happened.

Answers: 1) inappropriate, 2) action, 3) policies, 4) Check back



### Additional Notes