WHAT ARE THE FACTS ABOUT CYBER CRIMES?

- Cyber crimes are reported as the fastest growing criminal activities.

- Currently, there are no national composite statistics for cyber crimes. National cyber crime surveys and databases are in the process of being established.

- One in five youth receive a sexual approach or solicitation over the internet (DOJ, OVC, Internet Crimes against Children, 2001).

- One in thirty three youth received an aggressive sexual solicitations (request for meetings, direct correspondence, money or gifts).

- One in four received unwanted exposure to pictures of naked people or people having sex. (DOJ, OVC, Internet Crimes against Children, 2001)

- One in seventeen was threatened or harassed. (DOJ, OVC, Internet Crimes against Children, 2001).

Call to Get Help
1.866.751.7119

Your Resource for Information and Assistance

Spokane Crime Victim Service Center
1.866.751.7119

WHOA (Working to Halt Online Abuse)
www.haltabuse.org

Safety Ed International
www.safetyed.org

Cyberangels
www.cyberangels.org

Yahoo Search
www.yahoo.com

McAfee Firewall/Antivirus
www.mcafee.com

Norton Internet Security
www.symantec.com

Net Crimes
www.netcrimes.net

Protecting the rights of crime victims

SPOKANE CRIME VICTIM SERVICE CENTER

Your Resource for Information and Assistance

CYBER STREET SMARTS— CHILDREN

Internet crimes are often thought of as victimless. Nothing could be further from the truth. Children and teenagers can and do become victims of Internet crimes. Predators contact teenagers and children over the Internet and victimize them by:

- Enticing them through online contact for the purpose of engaging them in sexual acts.

- Using the Internet for the production, manufacture, and distribution of child pornography.

- Using the Internet to expose youth to child pornography and encourage them to exchange pornography.

- Enticing and exploiting children for the purpose of sexual tourism (travel with the intent to engage in sexual behavior) for commercial gain and/or personal gratification.

Several characteristics distinguish Internet crimes from other crimes committed against children:

- Physical contact between the child and the perpetrator does not need to occur for the child to become a victim of a crime to be committed. Innocent pictures or images of children can be digitally transformed into pornographic material and distributed across the Internet without the victims' knowledge.

- The Internet provides a source for repeated, long-term victimization of a child that can last for years, often without the victims' knowledge. Once a child's picture is displayed on the Internet, it can remain there forever.

- These crimes transcend jurisdictional boundaries, often involving multiple victims from different communities, states, and countries. The geographic location of a child is not a primary concern for perpetrators who target victims over the Internet.

- Most victims of Internet crimes do not disclose their victimization or even realize that they have been victims of a crime. Whereas children of physical or sexual abuse may disclose the abuse to a friend, teacher, or parent.

Use Cyber Street Smarts

- **Use a gender-neutral username**/e-mail address

- **Use a free e-mail account** such as Hotmail (www.hotmail.com) or YAHOO! (www.yahoo.com) for news groups, mailing lists, chat rooms, IMs, e-mails from strangers, message boards, filling out forms and other online activities.

- **Don't give your primary e-mail address** to anyone you do not know or trust.

- Instruct children to **NEVER give out their real name, age, address or phone number** over the net without your permission.

- **Don't provide your credit card number** or other information as proof of age to access or subscribe to a web site you're not familiar with.

- **Lurk on newsgroups, mailing lists and chat rooms** before "speaking" or posting messages.

- When you do participate online, **be careful**— only type what you would say to someone's face.

- **Don't be so trusting online**—don't reveal personal things about yourself until you really and truly know the other person.

- Your first instinct may be to defend yourself— **DON'T**—this is how most online harassment situations begin.

- **Don't fall for phishing e-mails** that claim your account has been suspended or needs to be updated—it's a scam!

- **If it looks too good to be true — IT IS!**

For more online safety tips, go to
www.haltabuse.org/help

Where Do You Go For Help?

1. KEEP EVERYTHING! Don't delete messages, chat logs, etc. Place them in a separate folder on your hard drive or diskette/zip disk, CD, etc. and print a hard copy.

2. Call your local police, whether city or county—ask for the Computer Crimes Unit or someone who handles online incidents.

3. Call the state police.

4. Call the FBI Computer Crimes unit in your area ONLY if you've received a direct death threat or threat of physical harm.

5. When speaking to law enforcement, be calm and know your facts—who, what, when, where, and if possible, why and keep it concise.

If the above fails, try the online resources on the back cover.

Program of
Lutheran Community Services
210 W. Sprague Ave.
Spokane, WA 99201
Tel: 866.751.7119 (24 Hours)
Fax: 509.747.0690