



## PRP's Top Ten Social Networking Site Tips



**Think about which site you want to use.** Some sites will allow you to restrict users who access posted content; others allow anyone and everyone to view your postings.

**Keep control over the information you post.** Consider restricting access to your page to a select group of people, for example, your friends or friends from school, your club, your team, your community groups, or your family.

**Keep your information to yourself.** Don't post your full name, address, phone number, or any kind of financial or personal information; SIN #, bank and credit card account numbers — and don't post other people's information either. Be cautious about posting information that could be used to identify you or locate you offline. This could include the name of your school, teachers, family members, sports team, clubs, and where you work or hang out.

**Use a screen name that doesn't say much about you.** Don't use your name, your age, year of birth, or your hometown. Even if you think your screen name makes you anonymous, it takes very little effort to combine clues and figure out who you are and where you can be found.

**Post only information that you are comfortable with others seeing — and knowing — about you.** Anyone can see your page, including your employer, your parents, your teachers, the police, your school or the job you might want to apply for in five years.

**Don't post personal photos.** They can be altered and used in ways you may not be happy about. If you do post one, ask yourself whether it's one your mom would display in the living room.

**Flirting with strangers online could have serious consequences.** Because some people lie about who they really are and their intentions, you never really know who you're dealing with.

**Be wary if a new online friend who wants to meet you in person.** Before you decide to meet someone, do your research; ask whether any of your friends knows the person, and see what background you can dig up through online search engines. If you decide to meet them, be smart: Meet in a public place, during the day, with friends you trust. Tell someone where you're going, and when you expect to be back.

**You can't take it back.** Even if you delete the information from your page, it's still out there; on other people's computers.

**Go with your gut feeling.** If you feel uncomfortable or threatened because of something directed at you online, tell an adult you trust and/or report it to the police, and the social networking site. You could be preventing yourself or someone else from becoming a victim.

**Remember, if you're not willing to shout out information about you from the top of City Hall in your hometown, then don't post it.**