INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY 101
*a **quick guide** for parents and educators*

Any child with unrestricted internet access is just a click away from viewing--either intentionally or accidentally--sexually explicit material online, from "adult" pornography ("soft-core") to prosecutable content (obscenity) depicting graphic sex acts, orgies, bestiality, and rape.

4 Types of Pornography that can be Determined Illegal by the U.S. Supreme Court

- **Indecent material** includes messages or pictures on telephone, radio, or broadcast TV that are patently offensive descriptions or depictions of sexual or excretory organs or activities. It is often referred to as "sexual nudity" and "dirty words."

- **Material harmful to minors (HTM)** represents nudity or sex that has prurient appeal for minors, is offensive and unsuitable for minors, and lacks serious value for minors. There are "harmful to minors" laws in every state.

- **Obscenity ("hard-core pornography")** is graphic material that focuses on sex and/or sexual violence. It includes close-ups of graphic sex acts, lewd exhibition of the genitals, and deviant activities such as group sex, bestiality, torture, incest, and excretory functions. There are federal obscenity laws that criminalize distribution of obscenity on the Internet, but they have not been vigorously enforced.

- **Child pornography (child sex abuse material or CSAM)** is material that visually depicts children under the age of 18 engaged in actual or simulated sexual activity, including lewd exhibition of the genitals.

How Does Pornography Harm Kids?

- Has a negative impact on the emotional and mental health of children

- Fosters sexual "mis-education"

- Is a counterfeit for erotic love and intimacy and teaches "Adult Entertainment" is normal, realistic, and desirable

- Contributes to sexual dysfunction and facilitates sexual aggression

- Desensitizes the viewer and increases an appetite for more deviant, extreme or violent types of pornography

- Images can never be erased from their minds

- Can lead to objectification of others (rating of females by appearance, obsessive fetishes over body parts, increased sexual callousness toward women)

- Addiction to pornography can develop

- Can cause some to trivialize rape as a criminal offense

- Can decrease the gray matter of the prefrontal cortex of the brain that controls common sense, judgment and emotion

- May incite/arouse children to "act out" sexually against other children based on what they have seen

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH®
MAKING THE INTERNET SAFER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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How Do Pornographers Target Kids?

- Free teaser images of sexual activity to entice teens
- Cybersex and cyberchats stimulate sexual arousal (ex. virtual sex encounters with adult entertainers)
- Innocent word searches (popular terms/innocent searches for cartoon characters, child icons and celebrities can lead to pornographic content)
- Misspelled words/stealth sites (URL's that are close in name to the "legitimate" site that lead to pornographic site)
- Free flash games (puzzles, word games, card games)
- Pop-ups & Ad Banners –can lead to pornographic website after a click.
- E-mail spam (junk mail)
- Looping (pop-ups that won't disappear until device is restarted)
- Porn-Napping (expired URL's for legitimate site taken over by pornographic site)

Conversation Starters

It is vital that parents have age-appropriate conversations with their children about the harms of pornography. If children do not feel like they have a trusted adult to talk to, they will be left defenseless to the threat of the predatory pornography industry luring them in. Be that trusted and understanding adult they can talk to as children are naturally curious about sex.

Ask your child:
- Have you ever seen something online that made you uncomfortable or curious?
- Have you accidentally seen sexual pictures online?
- How did that happen? What did you do? How did it make you feel?
- Have any of your friends ever accessed pornography? Accidentally or intentionally?

If your child has been exposed to pornography:

- Don't overreact or shame child; rather, engage them in a conversation so they will come to you again when it happens in the future
- Realize that kids need and want adult guidance
- Educate your child about healthy sexuality, respect for themselves and the opposite sex
- Help your child to replace counterfeit messages with messages of healthy sexual values
- Professional help may be required if your child is traumatized by imagery or you sense an addiction to pornography has developed.

safety & prevention 101
RULES N' TOOLS ®

No child is immune to online threats: Parents are the "first line of defense."

- Spend time online alongside your children and create an atmosphere of trust.

- Teach your child never share personally identifiable information (PII) including date of birth, address, full name, school or any image that can be used to identify or track your child down.

- Remind them not to click on unfamiliar links or open attachments, including banner ads, e-mails, pop-ups

- Encourage your child to talk to you (or a trusted adult) if anyone does or sends something online that makes your child feel uncomfortable or threatened.

- Know your child's user names and passwords for email and social media.

- Check to see if your child has any hidden apps or accounts

- Watch out for warnings signs such as that your child may be viewing pornography such as: Has unusual curiosity about sexuality for his or her age; signs of premature sexual activity; unusual or unexplained credit card charges; increased pop-ups or inappropriate e-mails on your computer; computer screen changes quickly when you walk into a room; or noticeable changes in behavior, including increased secretiveness or defensiveness

- Implement Safety Rules and Software tools ("*Rules 'N Tools®*") on all internet-enabled devices and platforms used by your child. See the **Enough Is Enough® *"Rules 'N Tools®"*** guide at internetsafety101.org/safety-intro

- Essential software tools include setting age-appropriate filters, monitoring and time management software.

- Have your child sign the ***Family Contract for Smart Phones and Digital Devices***

Enough Is Enough® (EIE) Quick Guides are based on EIE's **Internet Safety 101®** Emmy Award-winning multi-media program and website designed to educate, equip and empower parents, educators and other adults with information needed to protect children from internet dangers.

For more information, visit internetsafety101.org and enough.org