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Contact Kylie Mason

Phone (850) 245-0150



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ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF FLORIDA

Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

Attorney General Moody Continues Idle Time: A Summer Safety Series with Tips for Parents to Protect Children from Online Predators



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is continuing the Idle Time: A Summer Safety Series by offering tips to parents to help protect children from online predators. Human traffickers [recruit more than half of victims online](#), usually through social media platforms, web-based messaging apps and online chat rooms. In a recent [human trafficking case Attorney General Moody's office is prosecuting](#), a middle-aged Clay County man met a Pasco County teenager on an online chatroom, then trafficked the minor for sex with other adults.

As summer approaches and children have more idle time to spend on computers and mobile devices, it is crucial that parents are equipped with the information needed to keep their kids safe.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "With school out for summer, children may be spending more time online. Human traffickers and other online predators use social media and chat rooms to target minors. In fact, we just charged a human trafficker in a case involving the online solicitation of a Florida teen. That is why it is so important to take steps to protect your children

online, and to help parents, I am continuing our Idle Time series with online safety tips.”

Since 2000, [traffickers recruited 55% of sex trafficking victims online](#), primarily using social media, messaging apps and online chat rooms. [The median age of a child being contacted is 15 years old](#). According to the U.S. Department of Justice, [predators targeted more than 3,000 minors in sextortion cases in 2022 alone](#).

Attorney General Moody is offering the following tips to parents and guardians to help keep children safe from online predators:

- Establish clear rules and boundaries regarding internet usage—whether that is limiting accessible sites, apps and social media platforms or setting time limits for online activities;
- Monitor a child’s online activity and be aware of friends and contacts they may have;
- Teach children about the importance and consequences of safeguarding personal information online; and
- Warn children about talking to or meeting up with strangers from the internet.

For a list of apps that pose risks to children, view Attorney General Moody’s Online Safety Toolkit by clicking [here](#).

To view this and the previous installment of Idle Time: A Summer Safety Series, visit [MyFloridaLegal.com](#).

The infographic features a blue background with a palm tree logo for 'Idle Time' in the top left. The title 'A SUMMER SAFETY SERIES' is in large white letters, with 'ONLINE PREDATORS' in smaller white letters below it. A speech bubble contains the text: 'Since 2000, traffickers have recruited 55% of sex trafficking victims online, usually through social media platforms, web-based messaging apps and online chat rooms.' Below this, it states: 'According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, more than 37,000 online enticement reports came in to the CyberTipline in 2020, a 97.5% increase from 2019, with the median age of children contacted being 15.' At the bottom, it says: 'According to the U.S. Department of Justice, predators targeted more than 3,000 minors in sextortion cases in 2022 alone.' The footer reads: 'For more information visit YouCanStopHT.com'. The background includes icons of a smartphone, a person's profile, and a group of people.

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