

## For YOUR FRIENDS' eyes only

The great thing about MySpace and other Web sites like it is it lets you "hang out" with your friends online. It's a place where you can control your environment – design your own space, express yourself. Be sure to exercise all the aspects of control available to you. Here's how to create a safe profile on MySpace (from the Kentucky Center for Safe Schools):

### How do I set my profile to private?

- Sign on to your homepage.
- Go to "Account Settings."
- Check "Require e-mail or last name for someone to add me as a friend."
- Check "Friend Only Blog Comments."
- Check "My Friends Only."
- Click "Change Settings."

### I only want my friends to IM me.

- Sign on to your homepage.
- Go to "Account Settings."
- Choose "IM Privacy Settings."
- Check "Only Friends Can IM Me."
- Click "Change Settings."

What if someone is no longer my friend and I don't want them to view my page?

Go to the profile page of the person who is no longer your friend and choose "Block User."

## MYSAPCE SAFETY TIP WEB SITES

[www1.myspace.com/misc/tipsForParents.html](http://www1.myspace.com/misc/tipsForParents.html)  
[www1.myspace.com/misc/safetyTips.html](http://www1.myspace.com/misc/safetyTips.html)

# What are cyberbullies?



Thanks to technology, we have research and information at our fingertips, we can make friends anywhere in the world, find up-to-the-minute news reports, and cell phones keep us in touch no matter where we are.

Technology has also brought with it cyberbullies.

Cyberbullying is bullying behavior that happens via e-mail, cell phones, pagers, text messages, instant messaging, offensive personal Web sites, and offensive online personal polling Web sites.

Because most adults don't usually visit chatrooms, kid-friendly forums, MySpace, or read IMs, cyberbullies can stay under the radar. They can also use different screen names and profiles to hide their behavior.

Parents, help protect your young people from cyberbullying with the following tips from Stop Bullying Now (<http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov>):

### To help prevent cyberbullying:

- Keep your home computer(s) where it can be easily viewed, such as in the family room or kitchen.
- Talk regularly with your child about online activities he or she is involved in.
- Talk specifically about cyberbullying and encourage your child to tell you immediately if he or she is the victim of cyberbullying, cyberstalking, or other illegal or bothersome on-line behavior.
- Encourage your child to tell you if he or she is aware of others who may be the victims of cyberbullying.
- Explain that cyberbullying is harmful and unacceptable behavior. Outline your expectations for responsible online behavior and make it clear there will be consequences for inappropriate behavior.
- Although adults must respect the privacy of children and youth, concerns for your child's safety may sometimes override these privacy concerns. Tell your child you may review his or her online communications if you think there is reason for concern.

Consider installing parental control filtering software and/or tracking programs, but don't rely solely on these tools.



## PARENTS

Ask for your child's Member Login, which is their e-mail address and password. You will only be able to see message alerts if you are logged in to their homepage.