

Making a Difference

Newsletter for
Maryland Coalition Against Pornography, Inc.

MCAP Hotline: 301-439-8475

www.mcap1.com



TOGETHER WE CARE

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This coming week, MCAP will be raising awareness of some free resources that parents can utilize, particularly via a free online video series they can watch with their children, to help them build resilience to the harms of pornography. The exposure of our youth has been growing, reaching younger and younger ages, and the extent of the damage and trauma is likewise deepening. It is not a question now of whether kids will get exposed, but when, how, and how badly. It is the default sex ed tool kids are encountering, sadly.

To do this, MCAP is sponsoring another traveling billboard featuring a web site with the resources that we think parents will value, if they will take a few moments to learn about and explore them.

**IF YOU DON'T TALK TO YOUR
KIDS ABOUT PORN,
THE PORN INDUSTRY WILL.**

Start the conversation now and build their resilience

mcap1.com/StartTheConversation

Sponsored by the Maryland Coalition Against Pornography

The billboard (see attached) will run a week in August and again for a week in late October, and will feature this web site: <http://mcap1.com/StartTheConversation>, which we invite you to explore. We are partnering with the organization, "Culture Reframed," and their 3 videos are age targeted, one for pre-teens, another for tweens, and a third for teens.

The Magic Phrase Every Child Should Say When a Friend Says "Check This Out!" (from ProtectYoungMinds.org)

What if there was a magic phrase kids could say that would **protect them from other kids showing them pornography?**

Because once your child is spending *any* time around other kids, there are going to be mobile phones, tablets, school-issued Chromebooks, video game systems and other open doors to everything on the internet.

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And not every child has been warned about staying away from the bad stuff out there.

So teach your child to say this simple but effective phrase when another kid wants to show them something on a screen:

"What do you want to show me?"

Why this works:

1. It **stops the momentum** and creates a break in the situation
2. It gives your child **better information** to act on.
3. It gives your child **a moment to gather their thoughts** and choose to refuse if needed.
4. It lets the other kid know that your child has **boundaries** and doesn't want to see everything.
5. It creates **accountability**. If the other child has to explain something that is actually kind of embarrassing or sketchy, they may think twice about sharing it.
6. It helps your child get in the habit of **being intentional about what they view**.

Of course, you also need to have taught your kids why it's safer to stay away from pornography. Our [Good Pictures Bad Pictures](#) series of books make that easy!

So take a few minutes to practice this empowering response with your child regularly. And be ready to praise your child when they follow through!

For more help, read our post, [5 Sneaky Locations Porn Finds Kids](#). When you are aware of the real risks your kids face, you're more prepared to help them.

Cyberflashing/Airdropping of Porn

Be warned about a rise in new digital phenomenon known as "cyber flashing", where explicit and abusive images are anonymously sent to strangers through iPhones. [Note, android smart phones are not affected by this.]

Key points: cyber flashing is becoming more common. How does it happen?

The iPhone's AirDrop feature is used to share explicit content to phones within a 30-meter radius.

You can prevent being cyber flashed by turning AirDrop settings from "everyone" (the default setting) to "contacts only" or "receiving off."

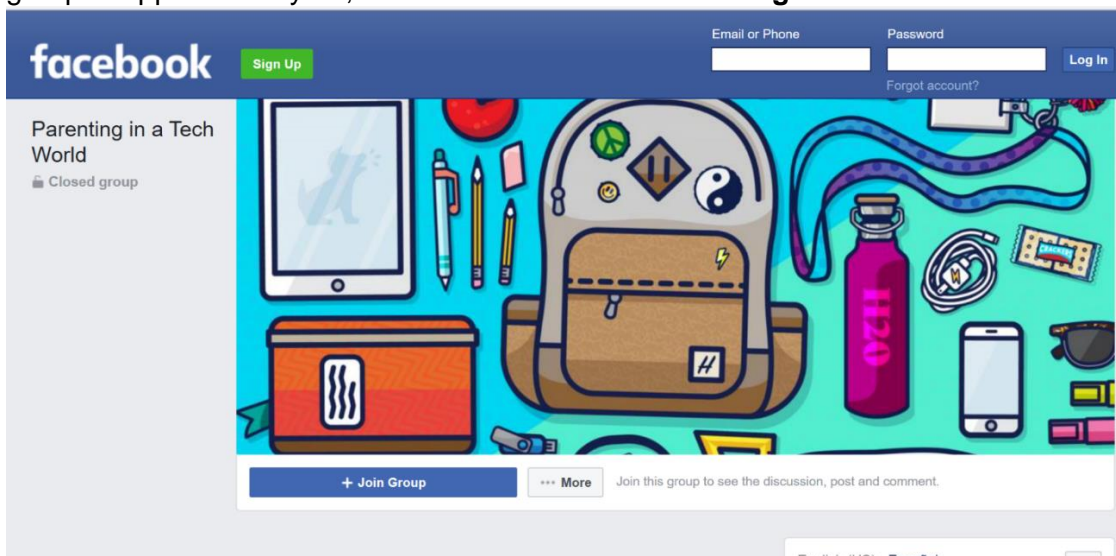
Cyber flashing has become prevalent in schools and in public places, with the iPhone's AirDrop feature being exploited to share unsolicited pornographic and offensive images, among both children and adults.

"The reaction is shock because you're being exposed to something so traumatic," said one high school student, who was 15 when she was first cyber flashed. "It's disturbing when it isn't really natural to see those [explicit images] at that age."

MCAP is aware that this is known to have occurred in an unnamed middle school in Prince George's County, in a situation where it was a video featuring explicit sexual behavior by students, on school property, video recorded by at least one student, then airdropped as revenge porn.

Helpful Facebook Group

Another good source of advice and tales of the poor choices in online behavior by youth is a Facebook group of approximately 39,000 members entitled "**Parenting in a Tech World.**"



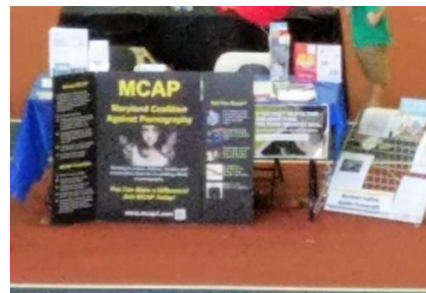
One can join this group and participate by asking questions or making comments, and a search feature allows you to enter a keyword or phrase to see if there has already been a discussion about any issues or novelities you may want to know more about, such as an acronym that teens are using, or a new app, or how to set up parental controls, use a monitoring service, Screentime, or disable certain smartphone features. Parents are also discussing what they do, involving technology, to discipline uncooperative or disobedient children, guidelines, rules, contracts or practices they follow, and why. It's a very active discussion forum that illustrates the tough world both parents and their young ones are encountering. Note: be prepared for some explicit illustrations and language!

And while you are on Facebook, also see MCAP's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/MCAP-Maryland-Coalition-Against-Pornography-173535058214/>. It is always posting new helpful info, trending developments in the fight, ongoing concerns, danger alerts, particularly of a local nature, such as local predator situations, and encouraging news as well. Are you willing to help us? Consider joining our board or volunteering in some other capacity... see **Action Box**.

MCAP Activities in August:



National Night Out, exhibited at the festivities hosted by the Bowie Police Dept. and the Bowie Chamber of Commerce, at Allen Pond, Tues., Aug. 6.



At the Prince George's County Back-to-School Block Party, Sat. Aug. 17, at the county Sports & Learning Complex, over 9,000 registered to attend and get back packs and other school supplies. Sponsored by the Washington Redskins, WHUR radio station and others.



Mom who was so enthused to see the book, "**Good Pictures, Bad Pictures**" she asked to be able to read it with her son, on the spot, right in front of the MCAP exhibit table!

ACTION BOX

- [] The Executive Board has several opportunities for (you/individuals) to learn how to advocate for decency in the fight against pornography. We are looking for several new people to mentor in areas of public education, lobbying State and Local elected officials and general association management. We have a solid team and are looking to expand our reach. If you or someone you could recommend, would be interested in joining in this exciting endeavor, please email us at mcapinc@juno.com or call 301-439-8475.
- [] Unless we hear objections from our readers, we will likely discontinue the WRAP/White Ribbons Campaign this year for a variety of reasons. If you would really miss your white ribbon, please let us know by emailing mcapinc@juno.com.
- [] Brainstorm with us and email your ideas of how or where to promote the <http://mcap1.com/StartTheConversation> web site. Where should we direct our mobile billboard to drive to reach families with kids? Do you have ideas of PTA's, civic groups, places of worship, clubs, etc. who would be interested in a speaker from MCAP who could talk about ways to address the problems discussed in this newsletter? Call 301-439-8475 or email us at mcapinc@juno.com.

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