



Protecting Our Children in the Digital Age

Corporal Clark Egdorf

Investigator Rebecca Shady

Topics



- Monitoring digital devices & activity
- Common platforms/apps used & what to look for
- Trends we are seeing in Dubuque County & across the nation
- Where to go for additional resources

Disclaimer: We will not be discussing specific ongoing investigations or cases awaiting trial.

Children and Electronics



- **Monitor Their Devices**
 - Cell Phone
 - Xbox, Playstation, Etc..
 - Computer
- **How often are you checking their devices?**
 - Once a month, twice a month, never?
 - What is the passcode (pin, pattern, biometrics, etc)?
 - Do you know this passcode?
- **Who owns the device?**
 - The child or the parent?

Initiate Open Communication

- Tell them you are looking for anything that is inappropriate and/or illegal.
- Let them know that you will be going through their messages.
- What to look for:
 - Child Sex Abuse Material (CSAM) – any nude or partially nude photo video or depiction of any person under the age of 18.
 - Drugs
 - Harassment
- Let them know this to protect them, not to get them into trouble.

What platforms are being used?

- Games
 - Roblox, Minecraft, Call of Duty, Fortnite, etc.
- Virtual Reality games
 - Gorilla Tag, Population: One, VRChat, Rec Room, etc.
- Social Media Apps:
 - Snapchat, Kik, Facebook, Facebook Messenger, Instagram, TikTok, Discord, VSCO, BeReal, Telegram, Mocospace, Monkey, MeetMe, ASKfm, Skout, Omega
- Dating Apps
 - Plenty of Fish, Hily, Zoosk, Bumble, Grindr, Tinder, Badoo

What Platforms are Being Used?



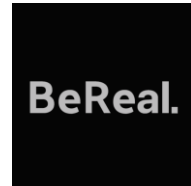
Snapchat



Roblox



Discord



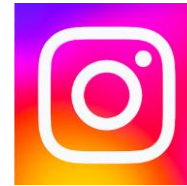
Be Real



Mess.



Facebook



Instagram



Kik
Mess.



Mocospace



Mega App



Tik Tok



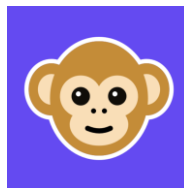
Telegram



Skout



Bumble



Monkey
For 12 up



Grindr



Hily



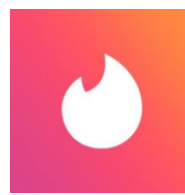
askfm



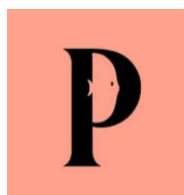
Badoo



MeetMe



Tinder



Plenty of
Fish



Zoosk

Hidden Vault Applications

- Private Photo Vault Applications
 - Need passcode or biometrics to open
 - Used to hide files (images or videos)
- Calculator hidden applications
 - Are there more than two calculators on the device.

Hidden Vault Applications



Vault



Vaulty



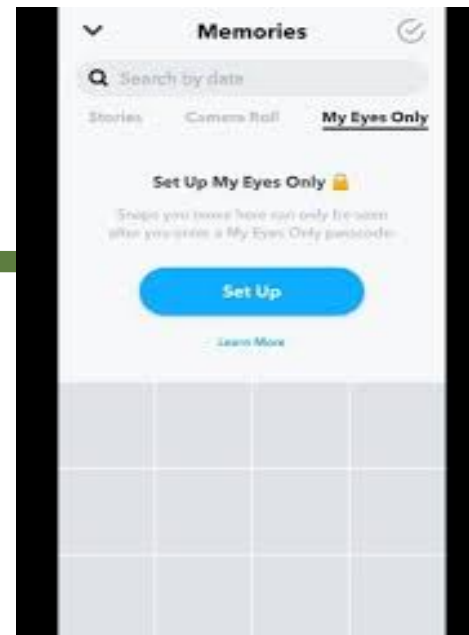
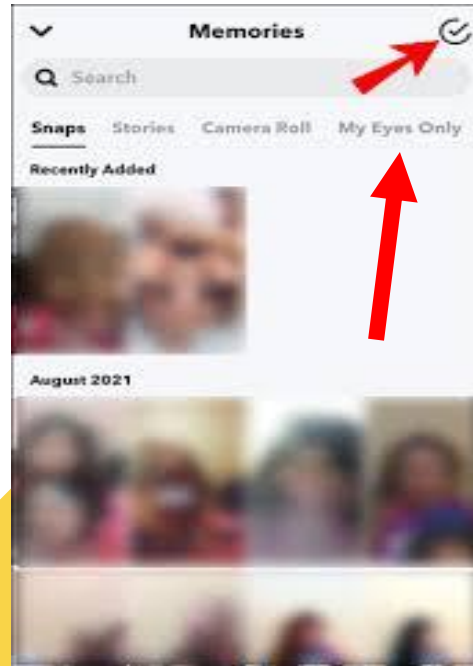
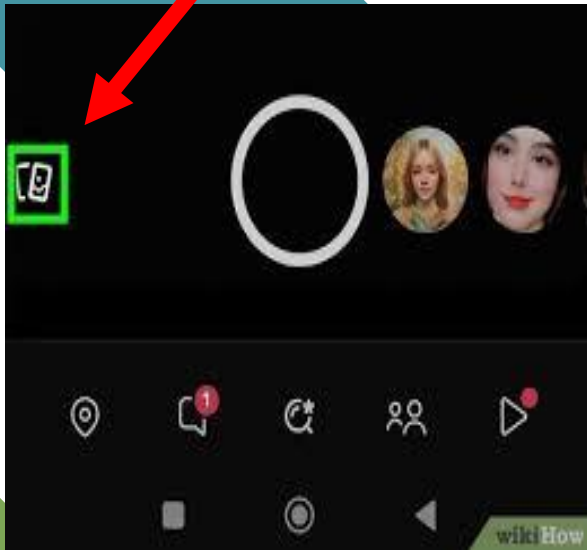
Private Photo Vault

Snapchat – My Eyes Only

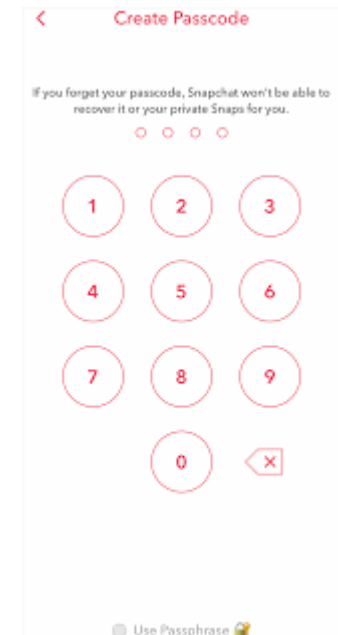
- Hidden folder inside Snapchat application.
- Used to store pictures and videos.
- Password protected by 4-digit PIN code.



Snapchat - My Eyes Only



Not setup



My Eyes Only
set up &
protected by PIN

Discord



 **Disboard**
<https://disboard.org> › servers › tag › teen

Discord servers tagged with teen

Meet and socialize with other teens! Make friends you are! Advertise your server! Have fun! Find tips and advice! Share the videos you sent to your homey, ...

Teens Discord servers teen Teen 태그의 Discord 서버 Discord сервера с тэгами

 **Discord**
<https://discord.com> › invite › teenager

teenager ☆

A Chill Teenage Server, Run By Teens For Teenagers. Join Us Today For Active VC's & Chats! - Invite Link: discord.gg/teenager | 20572 members.

 **Discord**
<https://discord.com> › invite › teenagers

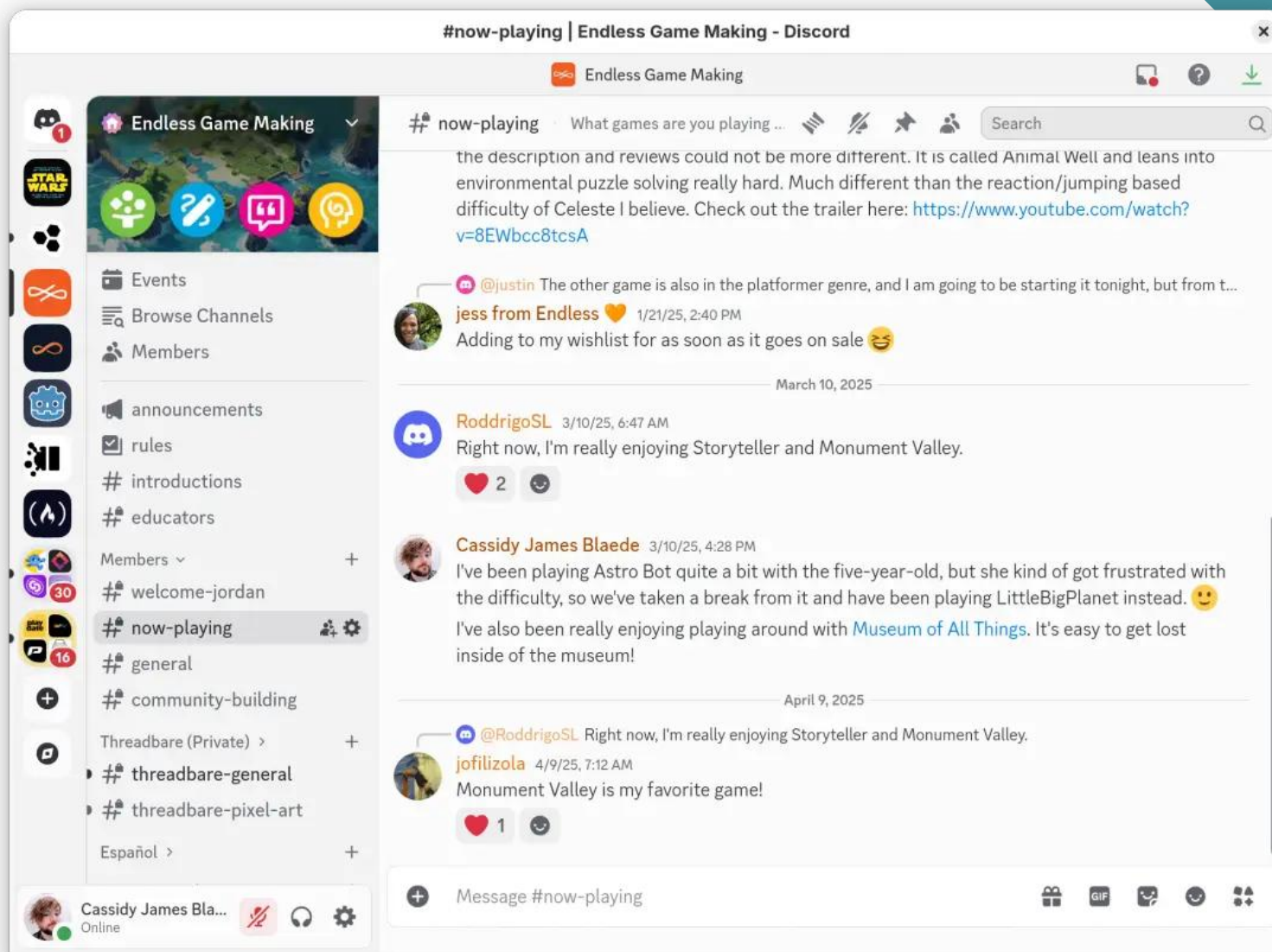
teenserv

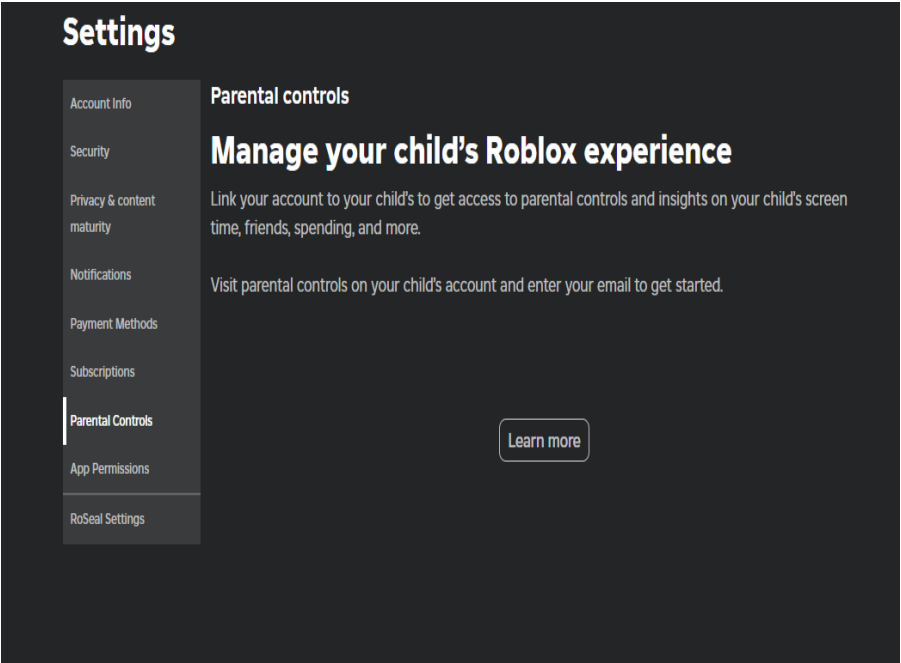
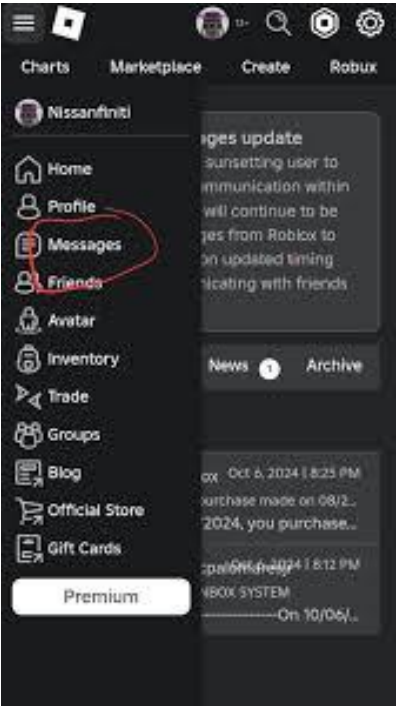
This is the official Discord server for r/teenagers - the biggest community forum run by teens for teens. | 91065 members.

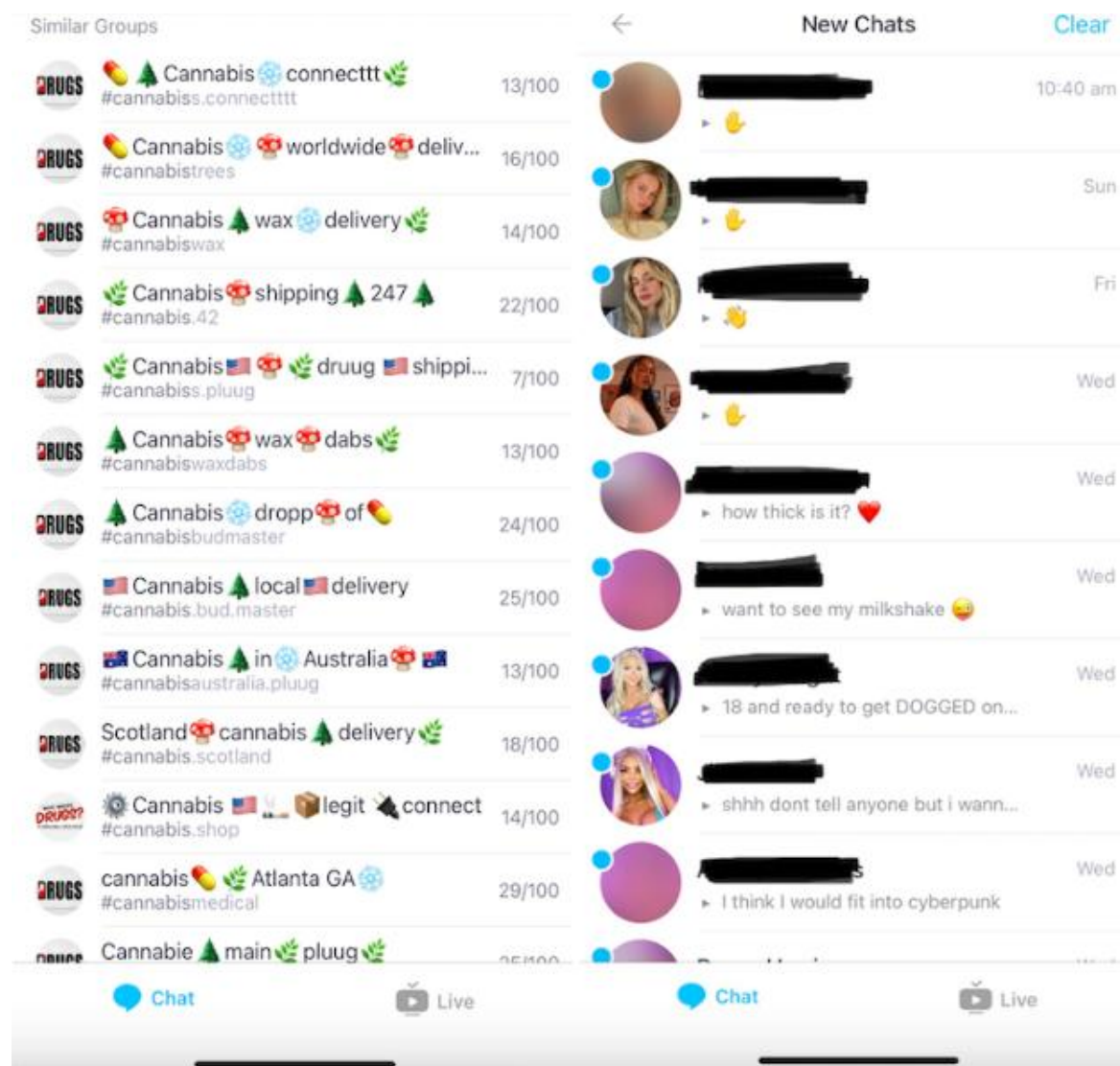
 **Discord**
<https://discord.com> › invite › enchanted-lakes-teen-chat...

Enchanted Lakes - Teen • Chat • Hangout • Chill • 13-18+

Feel like socializing, spicing your life with a whole bunch of new friends? Come join our new, fresh and growing server! | 33518 members.







Kik



Go to Photos

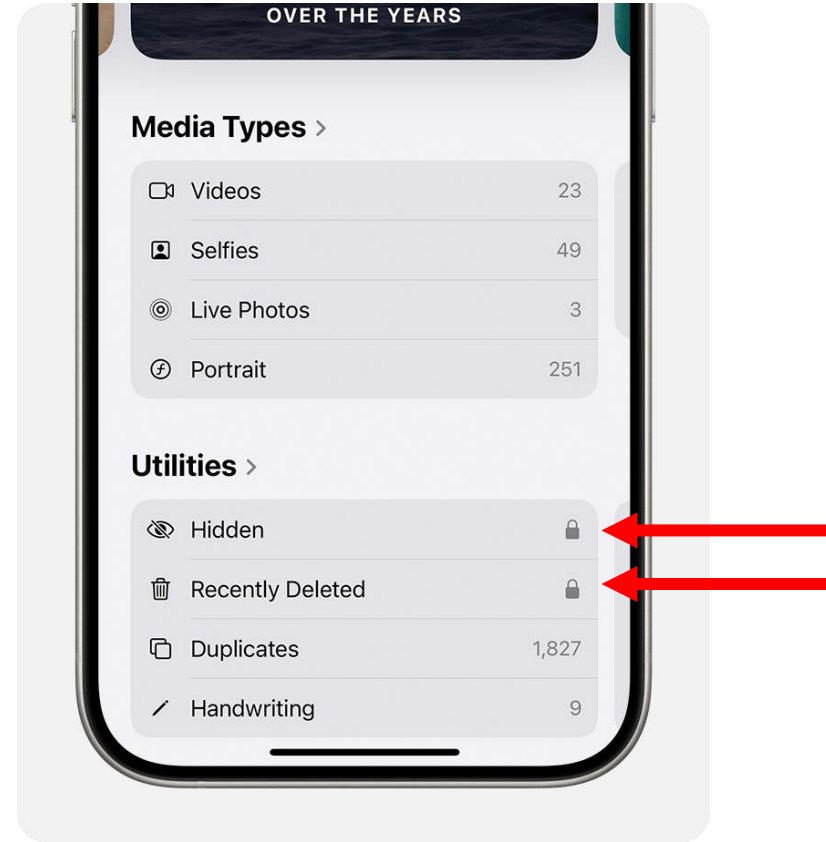


Scroll to down to Utilities – at the bottom

Shows two locked icons: “Hidden” and “Recently Deleted.”

Hit “View Album” - if asked for Face ID hit “Try Again.”

Once this fails twice, you can enter the passcode for the phone to get into the album.



Hidden/Deleted Photos – Apple iPhones

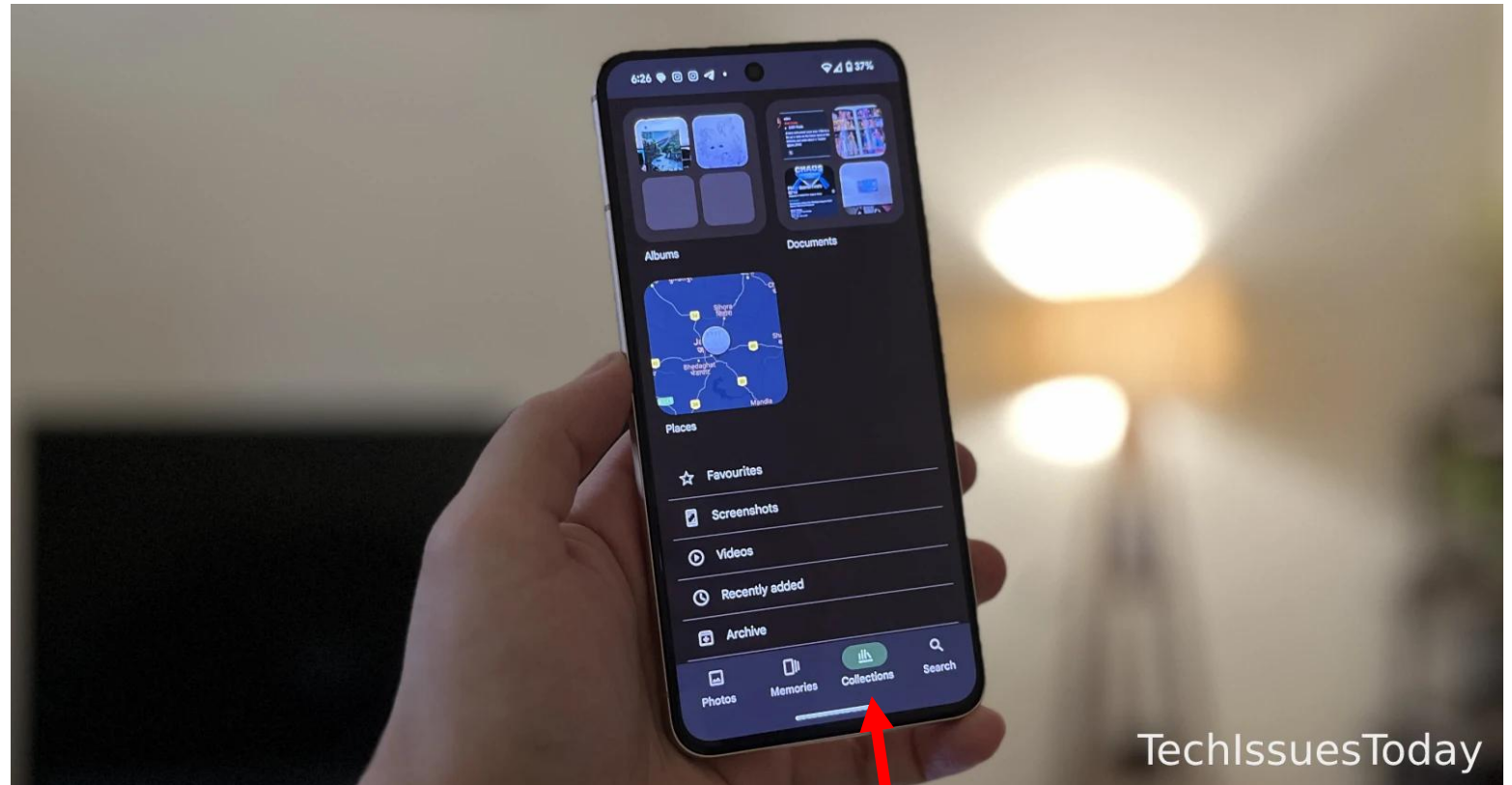
Go to Google Photos



Select “Collections” in bottom ribbon

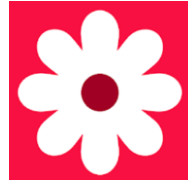
Will have trash icon at the top to view recently deleted

At the bottom below “Archive” it will have hidden folder if it is set up. If it is not set up it will ask you if you want to set it up.



Hidden/Deleted Photos – Google Photos

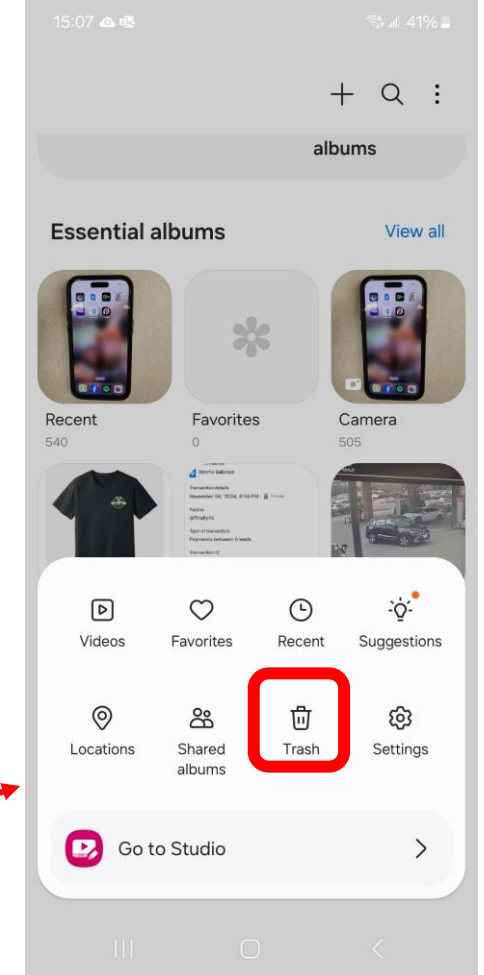
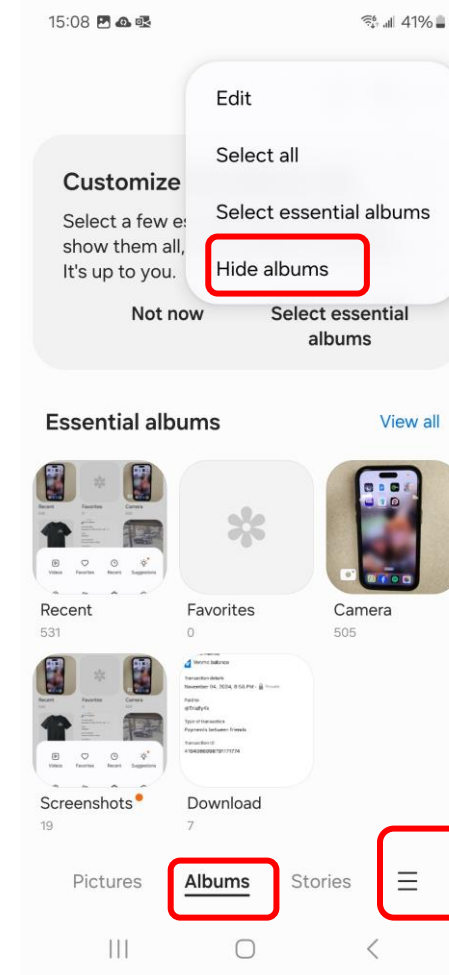
Androids – Samsung, Motorola, ZTE, Google, Moto G, etc.



Offers ability to hide albums & create a hidden folder under “Secure Folder” icon.



Secure Folder can be set up with PIN, Passcode, or Biometrics (Face ID or Fingerprint)



Hidden/Deleted Photos – Android Devices

What We Are Seeing in Dubuque County

- Sexting & “Revenge Porn”
- Sextortion
- Communicating with predators met online
- AI generated CSAM

AI Generated CSAM

- This has been taking place as early as 2023.
- AI Generated CSAM has become easier to create due to software programs commonly called Nudify, Undress, or face-swapping apps.
- These apps allow anyone to create fake nudes of children, classmates, famous individuals, etc.
- Most states have now criminalized AI CSAM (Iowa is one of these states)
- Technology & AI capabilities are progressing faster than policies & many states don't have frameworks set up in the schools on how to handle child offenders who create or share "deep-fake nudes."

AI Generated CSAM

- In 2023, students at several US middle school and high schools, both public and private, used AI to make nudes of classmates.
- States included were New Jersey, Texas, Washington, Florida, Pennsylvania, and California.
- Recently there have been more reports in the media regarding cases in Pennsylvania, Florida, and Iowa. This is also occurring internationally.
- Although this is starting to gain attention it is currently minimal for a country with 54 million school children.
- With that being said we have had at least 4 known incidents involving schools in Dubuque and Western Dubuque school districts ranging from Middle School to High School students

AI

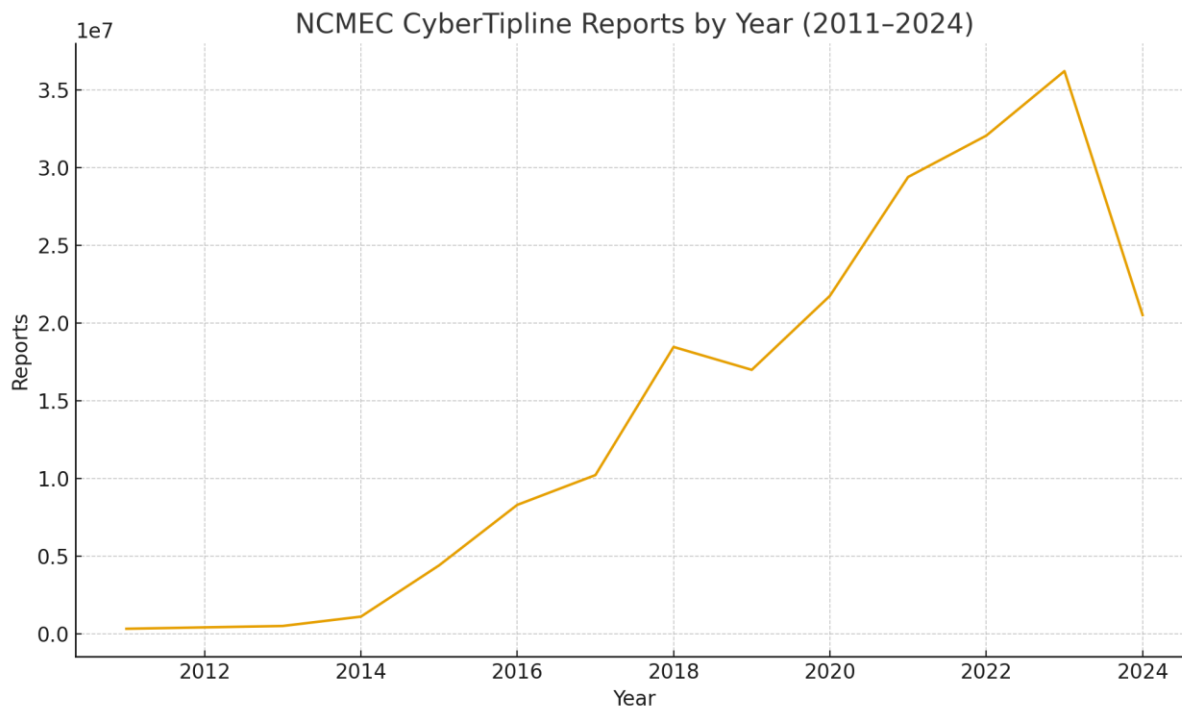
This is an AI photograph of Cpl. Egdorf making an image of himself in to a young female. It appears very realistic and if having a conversation on line you would not know you were talking to an adult male.



Final tips & takeaways

- Strengthen your familiarity with the applications used by your children. If you don't know what the app is on their phone look it up and **research** it.
- Let your children know this isn't to punish them. This is to **protect** them.
- Don't get complacent. If you are going to check their devices, keep checking them.
- If your child can't tell you who the person is they are communicating with, then it is not their friend.

CyberTipline Reports to NCMEC



- 2012 – 415,650
- 2014 – 1,106,071
- 2016 – 8,297,923
- 2018 – 18,462,422
- 2020 – 21,751,085
- 2022 – 35,059,029
- 2024 – 20,512,803*

* NCMEC introduced “bundling” where a single report can contain multiple incidents – 29.2 Million incidents were reported

Where do we go for help?

- Fastest and quickest way to report an incident is with the local police department or with the Dubuque County Sheriff's Office.
- **NCMEC.org** has all kinds of information related to removing explicit content, Take it Down, completing CyberTip reports, etc.
 - If you complete a CyberTip report it could take months before it gets to the agency who is going to complete the investigation.
 - **Take it Down** walks through a process to remove explicit images or videos of children shared when they were under 18.
- **FBI.gov** – Sextortion and scams

Questions?

- **Corporal Clark Egdorf**
 - Dubuque Police Department - Criminal Investigations Division
 - cegdorf@cityofdubuque.org
- **Investigator Rebecca Shady**
 - Dubuque County Sheriff's Office – Criminal Investigations Division
 - rshady@dbqcosheriff.com





Sexting, Sexual Exploitation of a Child, and the Sex Offender Registry

Overview

- ▶ Charges and Levels
- ▶ Sex Offender Registry and Requirements
- ▶ Court Proceedings

Definitions

- ▶ Disseminate – to transfer possession
- ▶ Minor – any person under the age of 18
- ▶ Obscene Material – Any material depicting the genitals, sex acts, masturbation, etc. which the average person would find is patently offensive and lacks serious literary, scientific or artistic value
- ▶ Prohibited Sexual Act
 - ▶ Any actual sex act between two or more persons
 - ▶ Touching of the pubes or genitals of, or by, a minor
 - ▶ Nudity of a minor

Definitions

- ▶ Promote – to procure, manufacture, issue, sell, give, provide, lend, mail, deliver, transfer, transmute, transmit, publish, distribute, circulate, disseminate, present, exhibit, or advertise, or to offer or agree to do any of these acts
 - ▶ Long way of saying “provide it to someone else by any means”
- ▶ Visual Depiction – any picture, slide, photograph, digital or electronic image, negative image, undeveloped film, videotape, digital or electronic recording, live transmission, or other pictorial or three-dimensional representation

Offenses – Sexual Exploitation of a Minor - 728.12(1)

- ▶ Unlawful to employ, use, induce, entice, coerce, solicit, knowingly permit, or otherwise cause or attempt to cause a minor to engage in a prohibited sexual act or in the simulation of a prohibited sexual act, if the act is intended or is photographed, filmed or otherwise preserved in a visual depiction
- ▶ Class B Felony – 25 years in prison as an adult
- ▶ Tier III Sex Offense
- ▶ If you make or cause someone else to make the material

Offenses – Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – 728.12(2)

- ▶ Unlawful to knowingly promote any material visually depicting a live performance of a minor engaging in a prohibited sexual act or in the simulation of a prohibited sexual act
- ▶ Class C Felony – 10 years in prison as an adult
- ▶ Tier 2 Sex Offense
- ▶ If you give or show the material to someone else

Offenses – Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – 723.12(3)

- ▶ Unlawful to knowingly purchase or possess a visual depiction of a minor engaging in a prohibited sexual act or the simulation of a prohibited sexual act
- ▶ Class D Felony – 5 years in prison as an adult
- ▶ Tier 2 Offense
- ▶ If you have it
 - ▶ Separate charge for each minor depicted
 - ▶ Separate charge for each depiction
- ▶ Visual depiction includes AI generate images modified to give the appearance that an identifiable minor is engaged in a prohibited sexual act
 - ▶ Identifiable minor – a person who was a minor at the time the depiction was created OR was a minor in the image used

Offenses – Enticing a Minor – 710.10

- ▶ Entice – To attract or tempt, often by offering something appealing or desirable, and persuading someone to do something they might not have otherwise done
 - ▶ Includes, but not limited to personal contact and communication by any means including mail, telephone, internet, social media, text, messages, instant messages, and electronic mail

Offenses – Enticing a Minor – 710.10(1)

- ▶ With the intent to commit sexual exploitation upon a minor under the age of 13, a person entices or attempts to entice a person reasonably believed to be under the age of 13
- ▶ Class C Felony – 10 years in prison as an adult
- ▶ Tier 3 Sex Offense
- ▶ If you ask a person under 13 for Child Sexual Abuse Material, whether or not they provide it
 - ▶ Can be an undercover officer posing as a minor under 13

Offenses – Enticing a Minor – 710.10(2)

- ▶ With the intent to commit sexual exploitation upon a minor under the age of 16, a person entices or attempts to entice a person reasonably believed to be under the age of 16
- ▶ Class D Felony – 5 years in prison as an adult
- ▶ Tier 3 Sex Offense
- ▶ If you ask a person under 16 for Child Sexual Abuse Material, whether or not they provide it
 - ▶ Can be an undercover officer posing as a minor under 16

Offenses – Harassment in the 1st Degree – 708.7(1)(a)(5)

- ▶ Disseminates, publishes, distributes, posts, or causes such, a visual depiction showing another person in a state of full or partial nudity or engaged in a sex act, to which the other person has not consented to the dissemination, publication, distribution, or posting
 - ▶ Includes AI generated images
- ▶ Aggravated Misdemeanor – 2 years as an adult
- ▶ Tier 1 Sex Offense
- ▶ Sending real or AI generated photos or videos without the other party's consent

Offenses – Dissemination of Obscene Material to Minors – 728.2

- ▶ If 18 or older – Sending any obscene material to a minor
 - ▶ 1st Offense - Serious Misdemeanor – 1 year in jail as an adult
 - ▶ 2nd Offense – Aggravated Misdemeanor – 2 years in prison, 1 year minimum
 - ▶ 3rd Offense – Class D Felony – 5 years in prison – 3 year minimum
 - ▶ Tier 1 Sex Offense
-
- ▶ If under 18 and sending to other minors – New code 723.2A
 - ▶ Serious Misdemeanor
 - ▶ Unsure of Sex Offense Status

Sex Offender Registry

- ▶ Separated into 3 tiers
- ▶ Registry Requirements
 - ▶ Appear in Person in the County of Residence
 - ▶ Verify Residence, Employment, and Student Attendance
 - ▶ Provide Photograph
 - ▶ Verify Accuracy of Other Relevant Information
- ▶ Tier I – Yearly
- ▶ Tier II – Every 6 months
- ▶ Tier III – Every 3 months

Sex Offender Registry – Who Must Register

- ▶ Any Person Convicted of Any Sex Offense Classified as a Tier I, II, or III
 - ▶ Convicted – found guilty of, pleads guilty to, is sentenced or is adjudicated delinquent
- ▶ When
 - ▶ From date placed on probation
 - ▶ From date of release from prison
 - ▶ From date released from a juvenile facility
 - ▶ From the date a delinquent starts attending public school
- ▶ Registry Required for Adults Convicted

Sex Offender Registry – Who Must Register – Exceptions

- ▶ Only Applies to Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent
- ▶ Court Waiver
- ▶ Court Modification or Suspension of Registry Requirements
- ▶ If the offense is committed by force or threat of violence the court may not waive registry requirements

Sex Offender Registry - Duration

- ▶ Initial Period – 10 years
- ▶ 1st Offense Violation of Sex Offender Registry – Additional 10 Years
 - ▶ Aggravated Misdemeanor
- ▶ 2nd Offense Violation of Sex Offender Registry – Lifetime
 - ▶ Class D Felony
- ▶ If placed on the registry as a juvenile, the Juvenile Court will determine whether to remain on the registry when the case closes

Sex Offender Registry – Exclusion Zones

- ▶ If on the registry for sex offense against a minor you may not be in the following
 - ▶ School Property or within 300 feet – Unless enrolled as a student at the school
 - ▶ Includes school vehicles
 - ▶ No sports participation
 - ▶ A Child Care Center or within 300 feet
 - ▶ Public Library or within 300 feet
 - ▶ Any Place Intended Primarily for the Use of Minors
 - ▶ Playground or Play Area
 - ▶ Recreational or Sport Area in Use by Minors
 - ▶ Swimming Pool or Beach in Use by Minors

Sex Offender Registry – Exclusion Zones – Places of Employment

- ▶ Municipal, County, or State Fair or Carnival
- ▶ Children's Arcade, Amusement Center (The Fun Station, etc.)
- ▶ Elementary or Secondary School, Child Care Facility, Public Library
- ▶ Any Place Intended Primarily for Use by Minors
 - ▶ Playground or Play Area
 - ▶ Swimming Pool or Beach
 - ▶ Recreational or Sport-Related Activity Area
- ▶ Ice Cream Truck

Sex Offender Registry – Residency Restrictions

- ▶ May not reside within 2,000 feet of school property or a child care facility
- ▶ Exceptions
 - ▶ Residence established before the school or child care facility
 - ▶ The sex offender is a minor

Court Proceedings

▶ Adult

- ▶ Warrant and Arrest
- ▶ Jail and Initial Appearance
- ▶ Records and Proceedings Public
- ▶ Jury Trial
- ▶ Possible Prison
- ▶ Required Sex Offender Registry

▶ Juvenile

- ▶ Complaint and Possible Detention
- ▶ Intake with Juvenile Court Services
- ▶ Subject to Waiver to Adult Court
- ▶ Records Confidential
- ▶ Court Hearings Open to the Public
- ▶ Possible Placements
- ▶ Records Sealable
- ▶ Possible Sex Offender Registry



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