



Make the Saint Charles County Cyber Crime Unit Your Number One MySpace Friend

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The Saint Charles County Cyber Crime Unit takes special interest in reaching out to youths and their parents to warn them of possible dangers prowling the Internet. A national Internet poll of teens ages 13 to 17 showed that 71% have established an online profile, with 47 % making those profiles public and viewable by anyone. In addition, nearly two-thirds of teens (64%) post photos or videos of themselves online. Nearly one in ten teens polled have posted their cell phone number and over half have posted the city in which they live or their school information.

The Saint Charles County Cyber Crime Unit is offering area youths who are MySpace users a layer of protection by enabling them to make the Saint Charles County Cyber Crime Unit their "number one friend" on MySpace. Parents can also discuss with their children about adding the Saint Charles County Cyber Crime Unit to their "Friends List" as a condition of having a MySpace page. Once the Saint Charles County Cyber Crime Unit is added to the Top Friends List on the youth's MySpace page, it displays the Saint Charles County Cyber Crime Unit logo, which may act as a visual deterrent to predators. However, if a youth still receives inappropriate messages, the youth can contact the Saint Charles County Cyber Crime Unit or their local law enforcement agency to report it.

The Unit's MySpace page is available at www.myspace.com/stcharlescountycybercrime

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The **St. Charles County Cyber Crime Unit** serves St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren Counties, and all their municipalities. It is tasked primarily with conducting the forensic analysis of computers suspected to contain evidence of crimes and assisting detectives in

conducting investigations in which computers are involved. St. Charles County Cyber Crime Unit also conducts proactive online investigations aimed at identifying and making criminal cases against individuals who prey on children via the Internet. It is staffed by personnel from the St. Charles County Sheriff's Department and the Police Departments of O'Fallon, St. Peters, and Troy, Missouri (www.preventcybercrime.org).