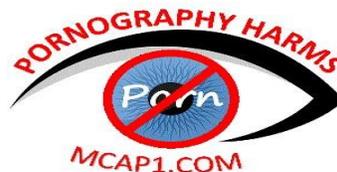


# Making a Difference

The quarterly newsletter of the Maryland Coalition Against Pornography, Inc.



www.mcap1.com/ or en español: www.mcap1.com/español\_

MCAP Hotline: 301-439-8475

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## ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK IS OCT. 30 – NOV. 6, 2022

**RISKS AND RESPONSES TO CHILDREN SHARING EXPLICIT MATERIAL**

with Program Manager Nitai Joseph and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor Amie Myrick

Oct. 24, 2022  
10:00- 11:30am  
Virtual Via Zoom  
CEUs Available

**Keeping Up with Apps and Parental Tools**

- Effective online safety communication with kids
- Risks and safety measures for popular apps
- Systems for deciding which apps to allow
- What to be aware of moving ahead

NOV. 10  
10-11:30 AM  
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM  
FREE

Nitai Joseph  
Programs and Research

Amie Myrick  
Licensed Counselor

Don't miss these informative 90-minute webinars from [No More Stolen Childhoods](#) Oct. 24 and Nov. 10. An Informative, 5-page resource guide pdf document has also been assembled to accompany the Nov. 10 webinar, available free [online](#). A summary of content:

1 - Parental Tools Connected to Devices - Beginning with the tools built into devices' operating system is the best foundation for online safety. These tools are steadily becoming more capable. For example, Screen Time for Mac and iOS has many features similar to paid online safety apps.

2 - Parental Tools for Popular Apps - Tools within individual apps sometimes offer the most precise settings, whereas other apps have no parental tools, or settings that cannot be locked and therefore kids can easily reverse them. A breakdown of several major apps is included, what to look out for, what settings exist, and links to complete guides.

3 - Parental Tools for Video Streaming - Video streaming takes a variety of forms. The more common services like YouTube or Twitch allow for various parental settings. Sites like Omegle, that are designed for streaming live with strangers, pose serious risks to children that are only prevented by blocking access to the site using other tools.

4 - Additional Resources and Guide - Our additional resources include links to reviews of third-

party online safety apps, as well as links to some top sources of app and media reviews and safety setting guides. See enclosed flyer and please post!

### ***More Good News – Kids Safety Legislation Moving Through Senate:***

Two bills that protect kids and teens online rights and privacy passed through committee and will be voted on by the full Senate. If passed, these bills would go far in creating a healthier media environment for children. Tech companies manipulate users to stay online as long as possible and expose children and teens to inappropriate and harmful content thanks to algorithmic amplification and poor oversight. These bipartisan bills, the **Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) (S.3663)** and **COPPA – an update to the Children and Teens’ Online Privacy Protection Act (S.1628)**, will require online platforms to put children’s privacy and wellbeing ahead of tech companies' profits.

[Here](#) is a way to urge your senators to co-sponsor Senate Bills 3663 and 1628 to protect kids online. You can make a call or submit a comment (or both!) Maryland Senators: [Sen. Ben Cardin](#) (202) 224-4524 and [Christopher Van Hollen](#) (202) 224-4654.F



### **CESE Summit, November 8-10, 2022**

The Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation *Online* Global Summit creates a one-of-a-kind setting, where people from across sexual abuse and exploitation sectors, as well as from a diverse range of professional, political, and personal backgrounds,

coalesce to be informed, equipped, connected, and inspired. There will be 3 days of presentations from over 50 expert speakers and 15,000 participants, as well as networking opportunities such as breakout Zoom sessions with allies on a wide variety of topics. Registration is **free** – click on the blue link above. Over 20,000 attendees from 100 countries are expected. Consider joining in! MCAP has purchased a group registration pass whereby we can offer a few of our supporters access. Contact us at [mcapinc@mcap1.com](mailto:mcapinc@mcap1.com) if you are interested!

### **Apple’s Parental Controls Got A Major Upgrade**

What’s changed with Apple’s parental controls?

Screen Time was arguably the least intuitive of Apple’s offerings when it should have been one of the easiest to set up. Parents were often confused by the 30+ steps needed to turn it on and often missed available and important features, therefore leaving their children open to risks like pornography exposure or receiving unblurred nude images in iMessage.

With the release of iOS 16, these are the most exciting changes:

- Defaulted age-based content features within Screen Time
- A Family Checklist noting all available features

- “Quick Start” option for new devices
- Family Sharing is at the top of “Settings”

## Calling on Bad Actors to Change

It's imperative that we call out specific bad actors in the tech industry and urge them to change their practices. Help put the pressure on these three mainstream tech platforms that are endangering our children. Click on blue links below for each.

**[Call on Discord to Change](#)** **Discord**, a communication and gaming platform that is widely popular with kids, consistently fails to address the myriad harms on its platform. Kids who use Discord are being exposed to pornography – including violent and illegal content – and are also groomed and exploited by predators.

**[Call on Kik to Change](#)** **Kik** is a free messaging app that is used by a third of American teens. The anonymity and ease of connecting with strangers ranks it among the most dangerous online spaces for kids. Law enforcement has been sounding the alarm for years about Kik being a stomping ground for predators, yet Kik hasn't made any substantive improvements to keep kids safe.

**[Call on Meta to Change](#)** **Meta** owns Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp: all of which are consistently under fire as primary places for grooming, sextortion, child sexual abuse material (aka "child pornography"), and a host of other crimes and ills. These dangers now threaten to take on terrifying new heights through Meta's development of the "Metaverse" (i.e. virtual reality products).

Thank you for taking action to help ensure that our children can live free from sexual abuse and exploitation – including when they spend time online!

## FREE RESOURCES!!!

We wish to do outreach to alert staff to our website resources, and offer free copies of [GOOD PICTURES, BAD PICTURES: PORN-PROOFING TODAY'S YOUNG KIDS](#) to libraries. Also please alert everyone to the documentary movie, “[CHILDHOOD 2.0: the Living Experiment](#)”, which is free on the internet. This documentary explores the ways kids grew up before the impact of the internet, smartphones, and social media. Researchers, doctors, specialists, and



teachers talk about problems this new technological era has caused in kids and teens, such as cyberbullying via social media and the rise of youth suicide over the last 10 years after widespread adoption of smartphones. The film delves into the rise of pornography and the ease with which youth access it, the dominance of social media and getting "likes" (and how girls need to show skin to get likes), and how it is now very common for boys to expect "nudes" (through text or apps like Snapchat) from girls.

***Cell Phones for Kids*** - A frequently asked question by parents is [what is the best cell phone](#) to choose for their children. The Protect Young Eyes organization has published a helpful article discussing the most popular “first phones” for kids: Gabb, Pinwheel, and Troomi, with Bark.

## ACTION BOX

- ❖ MCAP is in great need of board members and administrative help, such as newsletter editing, legislative outreach, graphic design, fundraising and social media outreach! **Please** call Peggy Cairns, 301-910-1534, or email [mcapinc@mcap1.com](mailto:mcapinc@mcap1.com) if you wish to serve. Our monthly meetings are easy to attend as they are virtual, on Zoom.
- ❖ Please [contribute donations](#) to allow MCAP to purchase Public Transit Advertising!!



If you are on Facebook, do "like" [MCAP's page](#), keep current on developments with issues we are following, and share with others.

*Making a Difference* is published quarterly online and printed once a year. Editor: Peggy Cairns. A membership in MCAP is \$15 per year. This entitles you to receive the annual printed newsletter. All contributions to MCAP are tax deductible. Please send renewal payments to: M.C.A.P., P.O. Box 2868, Silver Spring, MD 20915-2868. Any donations are much needed and appreciated!



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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