



## Social Media Popularity

Technology is constantly changing and becoming more advanced on a daily basis. Along with that comes children's eagerness to join Social Media. The goal of the Appomattox Sheriff's Office is to increase the awareness of what's popular online today. Technology, Social Media, and the Internet can facilitate a majority of bullying and harassment. With Technology being a large portion of our everyday lives comes more of a burden on parents when it comes to the safety of their children. Mobile Applications and Social Media harbor online sexual predators as well as other criminals who potentially monitor social media to facilitate break-ins.

A lot of what takes place on social media doesn't always stay on there. Conversations or arguments that take place on Social Media or Mobile Applications often end up with altercations at schools or other public places. The Appomattox Sheriff's Office encourages you to monitor your child's internet use, text messages, mobile applications, and social media pages.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Sheriff's Office or contact your child's School Resource Officer.

Other websites that may help are listed below.

<http://safesurfin.org/topics/help/>

<http://www.ag.virginia.gov/CCSWeb/Default.aspx>

<http://virginiarules.com/parents/>



## APPOMATTOX SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Phone: 434-352-2666

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## APPOMATTOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*Sheriff B.E. Letterman*

## Technology and Social Media Awareness For Parents



**Tel: 434-352-2666**

**Emergency: Dial 911**

## What you should know

## Social Media

## Helpful Hints

### MOBILE APPLICATIONS

Mobile Applications are programs commonly referred to as apps. Apps are downloaded onto cell phones, tablets, I-pads, I-pods, or any other mobile device capable of accessing the internet.

These Mobile Devices typically utilize either Google play Store on Android Devices or the Apple App Store or I-tunes on all Apple Devices.



Mobile Application icons typically show up on the phone's home screen or a specified apps screen similar to the image shown above.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media consists of several different websites and web applications. The most common are Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, Linked-in, Pinterest, Google Plus, Skype, Instagram, Ask.fm, Snap Chat, KIK, and Meet Me. These are just a few of the most popular. For a list of more social media sites, go to the link listed below:

<http://www.ebizmba.com/articles/social-networking-websites>

When used correctly, social media can be an enjoyable network. However, as technology becomes easier to access it gives criminals the opportunity to take advantage of or solicit unsuspecting teens. When Social Media is used incorrectly, it can facilitate activities like Sexting, Cyber Bullying, and other distasteful behaviors. Most of these activities alone, with the exception of Sexting, are not illegal, however, these behaviors typically lead to laws being broken. Sexting when a person is under the age of 18 is considered child pornography and is dealt with accordingly.



Twitter



Facebook



Instagram



Pinterest



Ask.fm



Snap Chat



Linked-in



Skype



Mobile Applications typically consist of social media, games, and picture/video sharing networks. Certain apps attempt to give more freedom than outdated chat rooms and allow people to reach out further than ordinarily possible.

Instagram allows you to share images and videos and link those to Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr. These apps require you to set privacy settings, so unless you adjust and maintain the privacy settings to private, it allows any account holder to view your profile. It's important to keep a watchful eye over your children to help make sure they are following safe internet surfing guidelines. By keeping a watchful eye on your child's electronic devices and online activity, you can help prevent online sexual predators from soliciting your children, prevent possible child abductions, and help to keep your child from getting involved in criminal activities.

We strongly recommend researching any applications or sites your child visits and ask that you report any suspicious activity to your local law enforcement.