

Glossary of Key Terms

Blocking

Removing an online contact from having the ability to see your posts or make contact with you.

Check-ins

Adding a time and location to a post on social media.

Child pornography/child abuse material

Explicit images of a child under 18. Even if shared with consent, sexting images of people under 18 can result in a criminal record, as it is still considered child pornography (different states have some differing defences towards this, taking into consideration the age of both parties).

Consent

When talking about consent in a sexual context, it is defined as the voluntary agreement to a suggestion made by another person. Consent must be given freely and enthusiastically, be specific to each situation, can be taken back at any time, and be fully informed. Consent is also subject to legal restrictions, including age and being free from intoxicating substances such as drugs or alcohol.

Content

Anything shared or posted on a social media platform.

Digital footprint

The traces of personal information that remain on the web through regular use, such as browsing or sharing.

DMs

Direct messages - private messaging between two users on social media.

Loot

In gaming, loot refers to items of value collected through the game.

Online grooming

The process whereby sexual predators identify a target through an online platform and gradually develop trust, using tactics such as gift giving, compliments and emotional manipulation or coercion to eventually exploit their target. Groomers may or may not lie about their age and identity, and may or may not ask to meet outside of their online interaction.

Reporting

Informing those in charge of the site or app you're using about any inappropriate posts or interactions with another user.

Sexting

Sending explicit images via a messaging service, with or without the consent of either the person in the image or the receiver of the image.

Social media

A website or app that allows the creation or sharing of information, creating virtual communities.

Tricky people

It's important to be clear that not all strangers are a threat - some can even be helpful at times. Similarly, it is possible that someone known to a child can be a risk. Therefore, tuning in to how people are acting and how that makes you feel is more helpful. Anything that feels a bit off in an interaction could signal a tricky person.