

Monthly Columns

by Attorney General Jack Conway



August 2010

Cybersafety and making the Internet a safer place for Kentucky kids have been top priorities of mine as Attorney General. That's why I streamlined operations in my office and in 2008 created a unit devoted solely to investigating crimes that occur online, particularly crimes against children.

To date, my Cybercrimes Unit has launched more than 164 child pornography investigations, seized more than 77,000 child pornographic images and videos and made 32 arrests. Why is this so important? In some cases, our child pornography investigations have led us to individuals who are victimizing children.

We have also helped reduce Kentucky's growing backlog of digital forensic evidence, now involved in approximately 80% of crimes today. To date, we've assisted nearly 70 law enforcement agencies and have processed more than 2,300 hard drives and removable devices. What could take up to a year to process, we are turning around in about a week. That is certainly good news for Kentucky's crime victims.

The work being done in my Cybercrimes lab has provided a great service to the people of Kentucky and has become a national model in the fight against crimes that occur online. I am extremely proud of all that we have accomplished in just two years and grateful to my dedicated

investigators who work every day to make the Internet a safer place for Kentucky kids.

I also look forward to continuing to educate Kentucky kids and their parents about the dangers that exist online and the importance of thinking before you post. My staff and I have had the privilege of delivering this message to more than 40,000 Kentuckians through our Cybersafety presentations. For more information or to schedule a Cybersafety presentation at your school, please contact my Office of Consumer Protection at 888-432-9257.

Agreement Reached With Topix

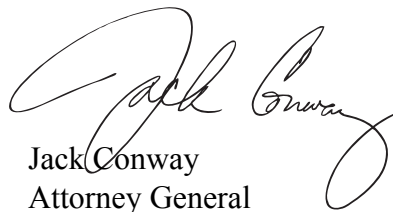
As I have traveled across the Commonwealth, concerned parents, school officials and community leaders, like Rep. Ken Upchurch of Monticello and Barren County Sherriff Chris Eaton, have asked me what I could do about abusive and false posts, often targeted at kids, which are rampant on Topix.com.

Earlier this year, I began contacting other attorneys general from across the country to find out what we could do collectively to stop the abusive posts and the \$19.99 fee for expedited review and removal of the posts. With the support of 34 attorneys general, I was pleased to announce in August that we reached an agreement with Topix to remove its expedited review charge. As a result, all reports

of abuse on Topix.com will be reviewed and removed free of charge. The website will also seek to review and remove inappropriate posts within three working days. If posts are not removed, people can email their concerns to the Office of the Attorney General at topixcomplaints@ag.ky.gov.

Be assured, we will continue to monitor Topix.com and its responsiveness to abuse reports and consumer complaints.

I appreciate the support I've gotten from my colleagues across the country in this effort and look forward to continuing to work with Topix to ensure that Kentuckians, particularly our youth, are not being harmed by harassing and abusive posts.



Jack Conway
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