

Internet Predator Grooming Process for Young Children



According to the Merriam-Webster OnLine dictionary, the definition for grooming is “to get into readiness for a specific objective.” Every day you get groomed to go to school. In other words, you get ready to go to school. You comb your hair, brush your teeth, and put on clothes. The word “groom” takes on a new meaning when you are talking about the Internet. Some people might want to “groom” you (or get you ready) to do things you wouldn’t normally do such as meet a stranger without telling your parents. To get you to do these things, they slowly groom you by pretending to be your friend. These people are Internet predators, and they may want to hurt children. Here are the steps of the Internet grooming process:

Grooming Step 1

The predator chooses a likely victim from personal information such as age or pictures found on the Internet.

Grooming Step 2

The predator tries to become a friend. This is always done by sharing; having the same interests, etc.

Grooming Step 3

The predator begins to push limits and boundaries. He or she may send inappropriate pictures or talk about embarrassing things. A predator will want the victim to keep secrets from others.

Grooming Step 4

The predator will begin pushing for offline contact by asking for email address, phone number, address, etc. The predator may threaten the victim to get the information he or she wants.

Grooming Step 5

The predator talks the victim into having an offline meeting, which can be very dangerous. The predator may hurt the victim.