ONLINE CHILD EXPLOITATION
HAPPENS EVERYWHERE

PREDATOR'S SCHEMES:

STEP 1

Predators scroll online profiles and chat spaces where kids congregate to identify someone who is vulnerable, assessing kids' needs, interests and desires.

STEP 2

Predators pose as the solution to a child's felt need such as affection, affirmation, entertainment, money or education.

STEP 3

The predator builds a sense of trust and connection through dialog, requests increasingly personal information or images, and gains ability to influence.

STEP 4

The predator induces sending of nude images or live web-cam activity, continuing and strengthening control through a sense of affection, indebtedness or through threats to expose secrets

STEP 5

The predator escalates exploitation to sex trafficking, continuing manipulation and using images to extort paid sex acts with the predator and other customers.

RESPONSE:

1 Maintain perspective – a child who succumbed to the ploys of a practiced predator is a victim and should be treated with compassion.

2 Preserve the evidence. Immediately file a report with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (ncmec.org) and call your local law enforcement or Child Exploitation task force.

3 Report the predator to the company who owns the website or app.

PREVENTION:

✓ Talk to your children about the dangers on the internet.

✓ Provide alternatives to unstructured screen time.

✓ Ensure kids maintain communication with trusted adults and mentors in whom they can confide.

✓ Lock down accounts, so that profiles aren't public, and friend your child, so you can see what their friends see.

✓ Log into kids devices to check their history.

✓ Use routers and device controls that shut off internet access outside of reasonable hours.