



The OffenderWatch App Fact Sheet

About The OffenderWatch App

- Trusted law enforcement partner [OffenderWatch](#) created the OffenderWatch App, a new mobile app to help keep families safer from sex offenders.
- The app is free to download anywhere it is offered through law enforcement.
- Features of the free version of the app include:
 - Parents can see their child's location and the location of registered sex offenders.
 - Parents will receive notifications from law enforcement if a sex offender moves into their neighborhood.
 - Families can access free internet safety tips and tips for talking to children about sex offenders.
- Citizens can choose to upgrade the app to a paid "Protect Plus" version. The cost is \$9.99 per year to monitor an entire family's devices.
- Features of the Protect Plus version of the app also include:
 - The app monitors the child's smartphone Snapchat activity, texts, emails, location and phone calls in the background, without storing the child's messages or interfering with its use.
 - If a registered sex offender contacts the child, or if the child lingers near the address of a sex offender, the parent or guardian receives an instant notification.
 - From there, parents should ask their children about their smartphone activity or contact law enforcement to investigate.
- Citizens can download the app from their local law enforcement website or from the Google Play and Apple app stores.

How Does the App Work?

- The OffenderWatch App is a free app for iPhone and Android devices.
- The app uses the device location to show the location of registered sex offenders.
- The OffenderWatch App also monitors a child's location and notifies a parent if the device is within close proximity of a sex offender's residence for an extended period.
- With the Protect Plus version of the app, it also analyzes certain messages or phone calls sent to the device against participating law enforcement databases of sex offender information.
 - If a registered sex offender account sends a child a message through text, email or Snapchat, or calls their phone, the app will send a notification to a parent or guardian.

App Store Availability

- Presently, the OffenderWatch App can monitor full phone, Snapchat, email and text communications on Android devices.
- The OffenderWatch App can monitor location tracking on Apple/iPhone devices. Apple does not currently allow outside applications to have access to phone activity. OffenderWatch is working on development of a way to provide monitoring for iPhone call activity that we hope to release soon.

How is the OffenderWatch App different from other parental control applications?

- The OffenderWatch App is the only app that alerts parents if a known sex offender has contacted their child. Sex offenders' phone numbers, emails or social media accounts are not publicly available and can only be obtained through law enforcement.
- The OffenderWatch App is currently the only application using sex offender information provided directly by law enforcement.

Can Law Enforcement or Parents see a child's data?

- The OffenderWatch App will keep a record of any data that involves sex offender contact and will store the information pertaining to sex offender contact for a period of time in case the child deletes the information.
- The data is private and cannot be shared unless given authorization.
- Law Enforcement will not have access to a child's data unless the parent authorizes it.

What happens when a sex offender makes contact?

- If a child receives a threatening or soliciting message from a registered sex offender, parents should contact their local law enforcement office immediately. The OffenderWatch App includes local law enforcement contact information.
- The OffenderWatch App does not directly contact or communicate with law enforcement.

Important Internet Safety Statistics

- 89% of teens have a smart phone and 70% are on social media multiple times a day.
- Teens overwhelmingly choose Snapchat (41%) as their main social media site, followed by Instagram (22%) and Facebook (15%).
- At least 25% of teens have received sexually explicit texts and emails, and at least 14% are sending sexts.
- 54% of teens report that if parents knew what happened on social media, they'd be a lot more worried about it.
- 45% of sexual assault victims are under 12 years old.
- We estimate 80% of addresses have a registered sex offender within a 1-mile radius.
- In 2018, NCMEC's CyberTipline received more than 18.4 million reports, most of which related to:
 - Apparent child sexual abuse images.
 - Online enticement, including "sextortion."
 - Child sex trafficking.
 - Child sexual molestation.

Sources: The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Exploited Children Statistics, A 2018 study (Social Media, Social Life) conducted by Common Sense Media in 2018

OffenderWatch Contact Information

- For more information, visit OffenderWatch's website at OffenderWatch.com.
- Follow OffenderWatch on Twitter ([@offenderwatch](https://twitter.com/offenderwatch)), Facebook ([@offenderwatch](https://facebook.com/offenderwatch)) or LinkedIn ([@offenderwatch](https://linkedin.com/company/offenderwatch)).