



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

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Attorney General Bruning Announces Agreement with Facebook to Make Site Safer for Underage Users

Note: A sound bite on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb) Attorney General Jon Bruning along with Attorneys General from 48 other states and the District of Columbia announced today that Facebook agreed to changes to better protect children from predators and inappropriate content.

Facebook agreed to: provide automatic warning messages when a child is in danger of giving personal information to an unknown adult, restrict the ability of users to change their listed ages, act more aggressively to remove inappropriate content and groups from the site, and require third party vendors to follow Facebook's safety and privacy guidelines.

"We know predators use social sites to prey on children," said Bruning. "Facebook's changes will help provide a safer online environment for Nebraska's kids."

The agreement is similar to one that MySpace reached in January with 49 states and the District of Columbia. MySpace agreed to head a task force, which Facebook has joined, to explore and develop age and identity identification for social networking sites.

Internet safety has been and continues to be a top priority for the Nebraska Attorney General's Office. Over the last five years, the office:

- Reached an agreement with Yahoo! that shut down 70,000 chat rooms frequented by sexual predators.
- Worked with the legislature to create the offense of Online Enticement.
- Worked with the legislature to pass cyberstalking legislation. LB 142 made it a felony for an adult to send sexually explicit material to a child under 16.
- Increased penalties for the possession of child pornography – one to 20 years for the first offense. One to 50 years for each subsequent offense.
- Hosted Websafe, an internet safety conference for local law enforcement and prosecutors, educational administrators, community officials and victim advocacy groups.
- Launched www.safekids.gov, an Internet safety Web site.

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