

# Facebook Safety Guide



facebook

A large, semi-transparent silhouette of a person holding a camera hangs on the left side of the slide. A smaller, solid white silhouette of a dog stands on the right, looking towards the center.

# Welcome

## OUR MISSION

Give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected

# to the Facebook Safety Guide

Nothing is more important to realizing this vision than keeping people safe online, especially young people.

## **But we can't do it alone.**

Safety is a responsibility shared among all of us – parents, teachers, companies, policy makers, and teens.

We hope this guide will help keep you informed about staying safe so you can always be up to date.

Most of all, we want to be here for you and make sure that all of your questions are answered. In this way, safety is a conversation among all of us.

*— The Facebook Safety Team*



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# 1

## Real Name Culture

Facebook is based on real names and authentic identities, where people represent who they are in the real world. The idea is simple: when people are accountable for their actions, they are more likely to behave well and treat each other with respect.

On Facebook, the connections

– person to person; person to organization or business; person to public figure – are real and authentic.

### DID YOU KNOW?

It is against our Community Standards to have a profile associated with a fake name. We encourage our community to report profiles that are fake, and we remove these profiles if we find that they are associated with a fake name.

# 2

## Controlling Your Information

We've designed Facebook with privacy controls at the center of the experience so that you can choose what information is shared and who that information is shared with.

### TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY & CONTROL

We give people who use Facebook transparency over privacy practices, control over the uses of their information, and we hold ourselves accountable to our practices.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

We have multiple safeguards in place that are designed to protect teens. Teens have a restricted experience in terms of who they can share with to prevent sharing of information with large groups of people they do not know. At a maximum, a teen's audience is Friends of Friends, and at sign up, teens are defaulted to 'Friends Only'.

## TOOLS

**In-Line Privacy Controls** – We believe in the power of contextual, in-line privacy so that people can decide at the point of sharing who should see their content.

Every time you post a photo or video, share a link, or write a status update, you can choose the appropriate audience for that post. This makes it easy to ensure you're sharing a post only with the people you want to be sharing it with.

**Activity Log** – The Activity Log is a powerful tool for controlling your information. Your activity log lets you review and manage what you've shared on Facebook - with activity log, you can manage who sees your content across the site. Only you can see your activity log and, from this page, you can manage how content appears on your Timeline.



**Friends Lists** – Lists are a great way to give you more flexibility in who you share things with on Facebook. Your friends won't get notified when you add them to these lists.

For example, you can create a list for just your college roommates and then this list is available going forward so you can share a photo with just your college roommates.

**Groups** – Groups are places where people share with a certain subset of people on Facebook.

Groups have privacy options, including Open, Closed, and Secret. So, for instance, if you want to create a group for your family only and you don't want the contents to be visible to non-members of the group, you can set the group privacy option to Closed.

# 3

## Reporting

We rely on the people who use Facebook to report content that violates our community standards. With so many people around the world, reporting on Facebook is kind of like the world's largest neighborhood watch system. We encourage you to click the Report link on any piece of content that you think might violate our standards.

For a full list of what can be reported, check out our Community Standards at [www.facebook.com/communitystandards](http://www.facebook.com/communitystandards).

### TOOLS

**Social Reporting** – Social Reporting lets people use Facebook's reporting tools to communicate to a member of their community that a particular piece of content makes them feel uncomfortable. If you see something on Facebook that you don't like, but it doesn't violate the Facebook Terms, you can use the report links to send a message to the person who posted it asking them to take it down.

In certain cases, such as bullying or harassment, you may not feel comfortable reaching out to the person directly. In these cases, you can use the same report flow to reach out to a parent, teacher or trusted friend. You'll have the option to share the content (ex: photo, message) that's making you uncomfortable with someone you trust. You'll also have the option to block the person.

Here are some things that Social Reporting can help you do:

- Remove a tag
- Talk to the content owner
- Reach out to someone in your community for help
- Unfriend or block the person
- Report to Facebook

Remember that something you don't like on Facebook might not violate the Facebook Community Standards. We think that these tools can be especially helpful in those situations.

**Unfriending & Blocking** – In some cases, you may decide that the easiest way to handle a situation is to unfriend someone.

**Support Dashboard** – To help people know the status of their report, we've created the Support Dashboard, a tool designed to help you track the progress of the reports you make about photos and timelines, where the most commonly reported types of content. From your Support Dashboard, you can see when we review your report, what action we took and why we took that action. We'll also send you a notification when the status of your report changes.

# 4

## Bullying Prevention

Being surrounded by friends, family, and community on Facebook should make your experience fun. But, just as in the offline world, there are times when people do things they shouldn't. Our terms prevent that, but here are just a few of the key ways we strive to make our environment bully-free.

Through tools, policies and education, we're creating a community based on transparency and authentic identity, where people are encouraged to treat each other with respect.

Here are some of the aggressive steps we take to prevent bullying:

**Terms and Reporting** – Bullying and other harassment is a violation of our terms. When bullying content is reported to Facebook by the target, we take it down. We prioritize abuse reports for bullying, so they are responded to more quickly.

**Social Reporting** – We're innovating in the bullying prevention arena with tools like Social Reporting which gives people an opportunity to work out their differences.

**Education** – We're deeply involved with the bullying prevention community. We work with partners around the world who are experts in the field.

Our new Bullying Prevention hub in the Family Safety Center has lots of videos and resources that can help teach kids what to do about bullying.

Learn more by visiting our Family Safety Center  
bullying prevention hub at  
[www.facebook.com/safety/bullying](https://www.facebook.com/safety/bullying)

# 5

## Resources

We've developed resources for you to use as you continue to explore the internet and learn how to stay safe online. Here are several resources that we recommend:

### The Facebook Family Safety Center

**Center** – The hub on Facebook features tips and tools for teens, parents, educators, law enforcement and other people interested in learning how to keep young people safe.

[www.facebook.com/safety](http://www.facebook.com/safety)

The screenshot shows the Facebook Family Safety Center homepage. At the top, there's a photo of a woman and the text "Meet the Facebook safety team". Below this, there are several sections: "Family safety centre" (described as a place where everyone can learn about safety), "Our philosophy" (about creating a safe environment), "The Facebook community" (where everyone plays a role in safety), "Tools & resources" (for account settings and best practices), and four specific sections for "Parents", "Teachers", "Teens", and "Law enforcement". Each section has a small icon and a brief description.

**Pages and Communities** – We've created Pages for specific issues so that you can stay up to date on the latest development and join the conversation. Here are a few of the most important Pages:

- Facebook and Safety – [www.facebook.com/fbsafety](http://www.facebook.com/fbsafety)
- Facebook and Privacy – [www.facebook.com/fbprivacy](http://www.facebook.com/fbprivacy)
- Facebook and Security – [www.facebook.com/security](http://www.facebook.com/security)
- Stop Bullying: Speak Up – [www.facebook.com/stopbullyingspeakup](http://www.facebook.com/stopbullyingspeakup)

We have partnered with many nonprofit organizations throughout the world to provide ongoing advice about safety and to help raise awareness of the tools that people can use to stay safe. Take a look at these great organizations:



Family  
Online Safety  
Institute

A PLATFORM  
for GOOD.ORG

ConnectSafely  
Smart Socializing Starts Here™



Childnet  
International

wired  
**SAFETY**



# 6

## Mobile

The world is becoming more and more mobile every day. Just as it is important to know the rules of the road online, we encourage everyone to know how to stay safe with mobile devices.

### TOOLS

**Privacy Settings** – Facebook's mobile apps lets you control your privacy settings directly from the app. This means that you can manage the privacy of things you share using the audience selector right where you post.

**Reporting and Blocking** – We enable people to report content, as well as block other users, via their mobile device.

### DID YOU KNOW?

People are in control of their information whether they are using Facebook via the web or via mobile.

# 7

## Safety Tips

Here are 10 tips to stay safe on Facebook and online.

### USE PRIVACY CONTROLS

1. **Check your audience before you post.** Facebook has in-line privacy controls so that you can set your audience – Private, Friends, Friends of Friends, Public – before you post a status update.
2. **Check app privacy before authorizing an app.** Before authorizing an app, Facebook tells you what information the app is gathering.
3. **Be location aware.** Whether you're checking in with your mobile device or you are tagging your location, you're in control of whether you share your location with other people on Facebook.

### CHECK YOUR SETTINGS

4. **Check your Activity Log.** Facebook has an activity log that is only visible to you. This is where you can see and control the privacy of things you've posted on Facebook.

- 5. Think before you tag and check what you are tagged in.**  
Through Activity Log, you can untag yourself from photos you're tagged in or use Facebook's Social Reporting to ask someone to remove photos entirely.
- 6. Check your privacy settings.** Facebook's privacy settings help you control who can see your stuff on Facebook and how you connect with other people.
- 7. Create Custom Lists and Groups.** On Facebook, you can create custom lists to limit your sharing. You can also use Facebook Groups to create smaller communities.

## **STAY INFORMED**

- 8. Read the Data Use Policy.** The Facebook Data Use Policy is the central location for information about privacy on Facebook.
- 9. Check Out the Help Center.** The Facebook Help Center lets you get answers to your safety questions.
- 10. Stay up to date on the Facebook and Safety Page.** On Facebook, safety is a conversation and everyone has a role. Stay up to date on safety by visiting our page at [www.facebook.com/fbsafety](http://www.facebook.com/fbsafety).

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