



Press Release
North Fond du Lac Police Department
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In its latest effort to help protect children online, the North Fond du Lac Police Department has launched its own MySpace page (www.myspace.com/northfondypolice). According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, one in seven youths ages 10 to 17 are solicited or approached by a sexual predator while online. Alarming statistics, such as this, have caused the department to allocate significant resources over the past couple of years to combat this dangerous and rapidly increasing threat to the safety of our children.

The use of a MySpace page will provide the police department with a unique and extremely effective way to communicate with children and young adults in a setting where they are spending an increasingly greater amount of time. Ten or twenty years ago children spent significant amounts of time in neighborhood parks and playgrounds. Today's children are spending an increasingly larger amount of time in "cyber" playgrounds instead. It was easy for a police officer to patrol parks and playgrounds of yesteryear, but patrolling today's online playgrounds has proven extremely challenging for law enforcement. The use of a MySpace page will provide the police department with yet another means to help patrol the internet and keep children safe from the predators that are commonly using it to lure children into dangerous situations.

Parents are well aware that the days of children calling friends on the phone are over. MySpace and Facebook, two popular social networking websites, are a typical form of communication for children now. The department hopes that children who use MySpace will add the department to their list of "top friends" to discourage sexual predators from contacting them – a tactic that has proven extremely effective for other law enforcement agencies across the country. We also hope that if predators are attempting to contact a child, the child will let us know, via the MySpace page.

The North Fond du Lac Police Department's MySpace page will also contain recent press releases, crime alerts, and safety tips.