

Social media crimes and Prevention.

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Social media crimes

As more and more people are enveloped with technology, similar boost in people's interaction with social media is observed leaving more average number of people susceptible to online scams and privacy violations.

The popularity of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat have transformed the way we understand and experience crime and victimization. Such circumstances make it vital to teach newer generation the "right" way of using social media.

Online threats, Stalking, Cyber bullying

The most commonly reported and seen crimes that occur on social media involve people making threats, bullying, harassing, and stalking others online. While much of this type of activity goes unpunished, or isn't taken seriously, victims of these types of crimes frequently don't know when to call the police. If you feel threatened by a statement made online about you, or believe that the threat is credible, it's probably a good idea to consider calling the police and indulge in proper action against the perpetrator.

Such activities are not directed to a particular gender, these actions taken towards the victim must not be taken lightly as they impose emotional and mental stress.

Hacking and Fraud

Although logging into a friend's social media account to post an embarrassing status message may be acceptable between friends, but technically, can be a serious crime. Additionally, creating fake accounts, or impersonation accounts, to trick people (as opposed to just remaining anonymous), can also be punished as fraud depending on the actions the fake/impersonation account holder takes.

Any unauthorized access to any personal information that the owner didn't consented to is illegal and can impose charges against the attacker.

Buying illegal things

Connecting over social media to make business connections, or to buy legal goods or services may be perfectly legitimate. However, connecting over social media to buy drugs, or other regulated, controlled or banned products is probably illegal.

Any dealing of unregulated substances online or offline is a criminal offence, such activities are never overlooked.

Vacation robberies

One common practice among burglars is to use social media to discover when a potential victim is on vacation. If your vacation status updates are publicly viewable, rather than restricted to friend groups, then potential burglars can easily see when you are going to be away for an extended period of time.

Always keep a check of your account's privacy settings and moderate to whom you want to share any updates if any. It is recommended that personal information must never be published publicly and befriending people only you know personally in real life.

Fake profile and online friendship

Creation of fake profile of a person and posting offensive content including morphed photographs on the fake profile is illegal without consent.

Developing online friendship over social media (with no real-life familiarity and using the emotional connect to trick you in transferring funds on some pretext such as medical emergency, legal troubles, problems in a foreign country etc.)

In recent times people made many online friends as any social activities are prohibited and resulting many people were scammed using such methods(funds and gift interchanges.)

How to be safe on social media

1. Limit what people can learn about you through searching on net.
2. Log out after each session.
3. Don't share social media credentials.
4. Don't accept friend requests from unknowns.
5. Don't click random links.
6. Keep the privacy settings of your social media profile at the most restricted levels, esp. for public/others.
7. Remember that information scattered over multiple posts, photographs, status, may together reveal enough about you to enable a fraudster to steal your identity and defraud you. So, apply maximum caution while sharing anything online.

In case of any distress contact cyber cell immediately.

References

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