



[HOME](#) > [GRANTS](#) > [TYPES OF GRANTS](#) > [INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN \(ICAC\)](#)

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

The OAG ICAC is responsible for 134 counties within the Southern Texas ICAC Region which stretches along the Texas coastline and East towards the state of Louisiana. The geographic area of responsibility has a population exceeding 10 million people.

ICAC GRANT PROGRAM PURPOSE AREAS

To provide support for the operation of the Southern Texas ICAC Task Force administered by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). The Task Force is responsible for combatting on-line child exploitation including the sexual solicitation of children, and the dissemination of child pornography and child violence images or materials on the Internet. The ICAC grant funded personnel are critical in addressing the increased caseload and providing investigative and forensic assistance to law enforcement in the areas where an expertise involving internet crimes against children is required.

Contracts awarded under the ICAC grant may be used to:

- Allow the agencies to receive training,
- Purchase necessary equipment,
- Purchase necessary software,
- Purchase other assistive technology products; and
- Provide expenses to expand their abilities to investigate technology-facilitated child exploitation and child pornography cases.

ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

An organization must be a local law enforcement agency that is affiliated with the task force. The affiliates who receive the funding are chosen based on a needs assessment.

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Whether it is a question about a specific grant or questions about the Grants Process, feel free to contact us.

Contact Us





Cyber Safety

Texas children access the Internet all the time — using social media, instant messaging, apps on their smartphones and chat rooms. But dangerous child predators lurk online, too. They're trying to gain children's trust for evil purposes.

Recent studies show that 1 in 7 young people have experienced unwanted sexual solicitations online — and 1 in 3 have been exposed to unwanted sexual material online.

The Child Exploitation and Fugitive Apprehension Units, formed and overseen by the Office of the Attorney General, work relentlessly to keep our children and communities safe by arresting sexual predators/child pornographers and bringing them to justice.

The resources below are intended to help Texas parents protect their children's safety — especially online.

10-17

Age range of children most often targeted by child predators online

527

POLICE

Arrests for online solicitation of a minor and promotion of child pornography in Texas

704

Convictions for online solicitation of a minor and promotion of child pornography in Texas



Questions & Answers About Cyber Safety in Texas

How can I help fight back against online child predators?

Knowledge is power. Educate yourself — and your children — about cyber safety. Talk to your kids, nieces and nephews, and any adolescent who has access to the Internet about staying safe on the Internet.

Tell them: If they receive any inappropriate contact online, talk to you immediately. It's OK. They won't get into trouble. You're there to help protect them.

As technology evolves, so do the tactics used by child predators. They may use social media, smartphone apps, chat rooms and more — all in an attempt to secure the trust of your children and convince them to meet in person.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children has an online program that teaches kids and adults how to be safe online. Visit them at www.netsmartzkids.org.

What is "sextortion"?

Sextortion is a tactic used by online predators to blackmail, groom, entice, coerce, lure and extort their victims into complying with their demands for sexual photos and videos.

These images are used by predators and, often, shared with other predators online. A single victim's image might be shared with thousands of other predators.

Sextortion predators pose as the child's peer (or someone of similar age) to gain their trust and illicit images. The predator will often threaten to share the victim's photos online unless they receive more images.

If you suspect a child has been targeted for sextortion, contact your local law enforcement agency immediately. You can also simply dial 9-1-1.

What challenges does law enforcement face?

When it comes to finding, arresting and convicting online child predators, law enforcement agencies face several challenges. These include:

- Staying connected to what's happening on the Internet both locally and across the globe
- Advances in technology (and the tactics that child predators use)
- The size and scope of the network of child predators who share images and tips with each other online
- The sheer amount of potential leads to follow: The FBI recently reported that on just one anonymous Internet network, Tor, 1.3 million sexually explicit images of children were discovered

What is the Child Exploitation Unit (CEU)?

Introduced in 2003 in order to address the limited resources law enforcement has to fight back against such a large, growing threat as Internet child predators, the CEU investigates and responds to complaints of child pornography online.

The CEU is affiliated with the U.S. Department of Justice's "Internet Crime Against Children (ICAC) Task Force." The Texas Attorney General's CEU is one of three ICAC Task Forces Texas — the other two being the Dallas and Houston police departments.

Which laws protect children online?

The primary law to help protect children online is the "Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)."

This law aims to protect children's personal information on websites (and other Internet services, including apps) that are aimed at children under 13 years old. The law also applies to any general audience website that knows it is collecting personal info from children that age.

COPPA requires these sites and apps to notify parents directly and get their approval before they collect, use, or disclose a child's personal information.

[Learn more about COPPA.](#)

Additionally, there are other federal and state laws that address cyber safety for children. These include:

- Electronic communication providers and remote computer service providers must notify the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's (NCMEC) CyberTipline if a user commits a child pornography offense. (U.S. Code 2258A)
- It is illegal to solicit anyone under the age of 17 (minor) — or anyone the offender believes to be under the age of 17 — online for sexual contact or to have sexually explicit communication. (Texas Penal Code 33.021)
- It is illegal to possess or promote child pornography. (Texas Penal Code 43.26)

How You Can Help

Here is a collection of helpful resources from around the Web that will help you protect your children online.

[Protecting Kids Online](#)

Tips to online safety from the Federal Trade Commission

[ConnectSafely.org](#)

Information on youth safety and social media

[Chatting with Kids About Being Online](#)

Guidance for parents and teachers

[Cyber Tipline](#)

Reporting suspected child sexual exploitation or child pornography

[Cyberbullying](#)

Texas Education Agency resources

[Chat Shorthand](#)

Parents' guide to Internet lingo



Conferences and Training

Check this page to receive up-to-date information about upcoming Office of the Attorney General conferences and training!

If you have questions about conferences or training, [please Contact the Conference Unit](#).

2024 Body-Worn Camera Recordings Webinar

On September 17, 2024, the Texas Attorney General's Open Records Division hosted a free Microsoft Teams-based webinar to discuss body-worn camera recordings. The presentation focused on handling requests for body-worn camera recordings under the Public Information Act and included a question-and-answer session at the end of the presentation.

[Download the Webinar Presentation](#)

2024 Public Information Act Business Days Webinar

In May 2024, the Texas Attorney General's Open Records Division hosted a free Microsoft Teams-based webinar to discuss recent legislative changes to the Public Information Act. The presentation focused on Section 552.0031 of the Government Code, the definition of business days under the Public Information Act. This webinar included an overview of the definition of business days and practical examples. *This event was recorded.*

[Download the Webinar Presentation](#)

2024 Human Trafficking Prevention Trainings

October 2024: College Station, Texas
December 2024: Tyler, Texas

The Human Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime Division of the Texas Attorney General invites *law enforcement and prosecutors* to attend this free one-and-a-half-day training on human trafficking. The training will feature subject matter experts who have hands-on experience in the field of human trafficking, including financial investigations for human trafficking, human trafficking and social media, challenges when investigating a human trafficking case, human trafficking investigation checklists, corroboration, and victim-centered and trauma-informed responses to human trafficking.

If you have questions about these trainings, please email the conference unit at conferences@oag.texas.gov.

2024 Open Government Conference

December 3 - 4, 2024
Austin, Texas

The Office of the Attorney General's Open Records Division is hosting a two-day conference. This event is designed for the public, government employees and public officials, representatives of the media, and companies doing business with Texas government. The conference addresses the needs and concerns of all governmental bodies regarding Open Government and related legislation.

[SOLD OUT](#)

2025 Crime Victim Services Conference

January 2025

The Office of the Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Division is hosting a multidisciplinary conference that will offer information, instruction, and networking opportunities focused on victim services and personal resilience. This conference is specifically designed for victim advocates, criminal justice professionals, medical and mental health providers, and others working directly with victims of crime.

[REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN. Register Today.](#)

2025 Government Law and Liability Conference

October 2025

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

For a list of NCMEC - Child Welfare training and conferences, please visit missingkids.org/HOME.

Request a Speaker or Training

Do you need a speaker for your organization?

The Attorney General's office may be able to provide a speaker or training presentation for your organization, event, or conference on topics such as:

- Human Trafficking
- Consumer Scams and Frauds
- Identity Theft
- Crime Victims' programs
- Cyber Safety and Cyberbullying
- The Public Information and Open Meetings Acts
- Child Support
- Other topics as related to our agency's divisions.

To find a speaker or inquire about training, please [complete the online speaker request form](#).

If you have other questions regarding outreach services, please email outreach@oag.texas.gov.

Speaker/trainer availability will vary depending on location, staff schedules and expense involved.