

**BEFORE
THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**“HOW THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY IS COMBATING
CHILD PREDATORS ON THE INTERNET”**

**JUNE 10, 2006
WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR, UNION COUNTY**

Chairman Whitfield and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. My name is Andre B. Banks and I am a Sergeant with over 20 years experience in law enforcement. I work in the Union County Prosecutor’s Office in Elizabeth, NJ and I am currently assigned to the High Tech Crimes unit that oversees the Union County High Tech Task Force. The High Tech Task Force investigates all computer and Internet related crimes in Union County . I obtained my Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Kean University (Union, NJ) and I obtained an Associate degree in Liberal Arts (Walnut, Ca). I am a certified instructor for “The Internet & Your Child” and a certified ISafe instructor, which are both education and training programs designed to teach parents and educators about Internet safety. We have given hundreds of lectures through out Union County on Internet safety and Cyber Crime. The Union County High Tech Task Force was the first N.J. County to start a High Tech Task Force six years ago to investigate child exploitation cases. We work closely with Federal, State and local authorities in these types of investigations. Several years ago our office also received a Federal grant to be a satellite office for the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) national task force. We have arrested dozens of Internet predators over the years through the work of ICAC. I am also certified as an Encase Certified Forensic Examiner (EnCE) for conducting detailed computer forensic examinations of seized computers. This becomes very important after arresting an offender and examining his computer(s) for evidence of the crime

that was committed. I teach in-service classes to Federal, State and Local officers on Internet crimes at the Union County Police Academy. I am an active member of the High Tech Crimes Investigator Association (HTCIA), New York U.S. Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force (ECTF), International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS) and the Institute of Computer Forensic Professionals (ICFP).

Prior to working in Union County, I worked as a Patrol Officer for the Fullerton Police Dept. in California from 1985 to 1988. In 1988 I relocated to my home state of New Jersey where I was hired by the Morris County Sheriff's Office and was immediately assigned to work at the Special Enforcement Unit of the Morris County Prosecutor's Office as an undercover narcotic agent. I worked in that capacity until Nov. 1995. I was then reassigned to develop the Sheriff's office-wide network database that was used by the four divisions within the Sheriff's office to manage the day to day operations. In July 1996 I was hired by the Morris County Prosecutor's Office as a Detective in the Fraud Unit/Administration Unit. While there, I enforced crimes relating to fraud, theft and started the Morris County computer crime unit. I have attended many police training courses in my career and also other specialized courses in police supervision and computer investigations.

Today, one of the many challenges law enforcement faces is protecting our children from the dangers of the Internet. When I first started investigating Internet Crimes back in 1996 it was primarily hacking cases and distribution of child pornography via email. Today, the predators that troll the Internet have many choices from which to make attempts to lure their victims.

There are hundreds of investigations that I could talk about when it involves the dangers of the Internet. One of the cases that I want to review with you is an investigation that I started a few years ago that involved a typical 14year old female named Nicole. I say this is typical because Nicole would come home from school before her mother arrived home from work between 3pm and 5pm and would always logon to AOL's instant messenger program called AIM. You know about the Internet chatting programs that allow Internet users to talk in real-time with people anywhere in the world? This teenager used the AIM program to chat with her friends. Some of her friends she had met online and some she knew from school. She met a subject online who said he was also a teenager from N.J. and he went by the screen name of *Lovs2playDoctr*. After several weeks of chatting online and making secret phone calls they became online buddies and *Lovs2playDoctr* began sending her lewd pictures and talking about sex. This is the grooming process that predators often do to make their victims feel more comfortable talking to them. One day Nicole's mother came home early and saw some disturbing chat conversations and called the Kenilworth Police Dept. The PD called my office and I later met with Nicole and her mother and they agreed to allow me to take over Nicole's screen name so I could continue chatting with the subject. I later found out through a subpoena that *Lovs2playDoctr* was actually Michael Jasinski, a 31 year old male from Newark, Delaware, who had a criminal record. I then went in an undercover capacity online acting as if I was Nicole, by using her screen name I continued chatting with *Lovs2playDoctr* until he made plans to meet Nicole for a sexual encounter. I contacted the Delaware State Police through ICAC and we eventually arrested Jasinski and executed a search warrant at his house in Newark, Delaware. This case that I just reviewed with you is a scenario that often happens involving our children when they are home alone. They usually will feel safe on their computers chatting with strangers

even though they know it is not the right thing to do. Jasinski is serving 10 years in a Delaware State prison.

Lovs2playDoctr REAL Picture



The second scenario I want to talk about involves the popular web site called MySpace. MySpace is a virtual meeting place on the Internet where children and adults can create free accounts to express their creativity and leave journal entries, also called blogs, on each others pages. This popular web site is awesome technology to many users, however it can be a nightmare to some people who fall prey to the predators and evil doers who seek to lure innocent victims. A recent case in Union County that ended in a tragic death involved a 14 year old female named Judy Cajuste. The victim had a MySpace account filled with many pictures and blog entries from her friends that revealed personal information. The investigation is still ongoing and we believe there may be a link to her MySpace web page that led to her death. Other MySpace problems occur when parents don't know there children even have a MySpace account or when schoolmates use MySpace to Cyberbully other children. I speak to parents all the time at our lectures and also receive phone calls from disturbed parents about harassment that

their children are confronted with on MySpace. This is not only restricted to MySpace.com there are many other weblog Internet sites out there that suspects use to lure and stalk victims as well. I'm highlighting MySpace because it is the most popular. One of the things I always tell parents is to become familiar with this technology and see what their children are doing. One incident I like to tell parents about is when a very upset parent called my office complaining about people posting bad messages on her daughters MySpace web page. I advised her about the proper way to file a complaint at her local police department, but I also educated her about the web site. I asked her if she knew about the security settings that MySpace put into place to block unwanted comments and she didn't know. I then talked her through the steps to block certain users and to prevent blog entries with out permission. After showing her and many others how to activate this feature it often solves the problem.

Privacy Settings

[Return to Account Settings](#)

We care about your privacy at MySpace!

To make sure you have a fun and comfortable experi- and view your profile.

- ◆ Check "Require email or last name to add me a email address or your last name in order to sei you from trying to add you as a friend).
- ◆ Check "Approve Comments before Posting" if y they are posted. Comments will NOT appear ur
- ◆ Check "Hide Online Now" to make your online s
- ◆ Check "No Pic Forwarding" to prevent other us
- ◆ Check "Friend Only Journal Comments" to allow
- ◆ Check "Block Friend Request From Bands" to bl

My Privacy Settings	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Require email or last name to add me as a friend
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approve Comments before Posting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hide Online Now
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Pic Forwarding
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Friend Only Blog Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Block Friend Request From Bands
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Friend Only Group Invites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disable Band Songs From Automatically Starting
<input type="button" value="Change Settings"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>	

How Parents can block users and prevent unwanted postings before they happen.



This is the evil side of MySpace

A good portion of my job at the Union County Prosecutor's Office is community awareness through training classes and lectures on Internet safety. Many parents are clueless when it comes to navigating around on the Information Super Highway. That is why my office has taken an aggressive approach to community awareness by having Saturday classes called "The Internet and Your Child" where parents can come and sit down at a computer terminal and learn what their kids already know about the Internet. We have also started the first "Train the Trainer" program in the state through ISafe, where members of our office and the Union County High Tech Task Force teach educators and law enforcement personnel how to give informative lectures to citizens in their communities. I believe this approach we have taken has educated a good portion of the population and has prevented more tragedies from occurring in Union County.