

## 6 Safety Tips for Social Media Users

Social networks are a great way of connecting with people. They help you to converse with friends and relatives regardless of the location. You can share your special moments, thoughts, feelings, knowledge etc. through these networks and enjoy the companionship of your loved ones even when they are at the other end of the world. However, social networks also include the **mischievous behavior** of anonymous people or even **criminals from around the world**. Therefore, it is important to know a few safety tips to reduce possible risks.

### 01. Fake profiles exist – do not believe who they are

Do not assume everyone to behave genuinely. Online profiles can be fake, or even based on a real person, but the real person isn't the one behind the profile as you'd expect. So, do not share everything until you know who they are for sure. Also, if there is only one picture in their profile, it has a very good chance to be a fake profile.

### 02. Be careful with your personal information

It is not wise to display your personal information on the profile page. Your address, phone number, date of birth, email address or social security number are not to be displayed publicly (that is why they are called personal information!). Since the profiles are viewable by various kinds of people all around the world, displaying this information is a huge risk.

### 03. Do not post everything

You are not supposed to display everything you do on your profile. Thieves search social media for posts about vacations, upcoming travel plans, doctor visits, and work schedules to determine if anyone is at home. In fact, it is just like an open invitation for burglars to come and visit. So be careful with what you post. Use your common sense.

### 04. Be careful when uploading content

When posting videos or photos of other people, get their permission before you post them. Remember, everything you share online is public forever and can also be downloaded from the other end and modified in many unpleasing ways. So be cautious.

### 05. Be careful when meeting someone

Unless you know the person perfectly, never go out and meet anyone who you got to know through your social network. Even after getting to know the person, if you want to meet him/her, tell somebody (a friend or a relative) about your meeting with all the information including venue and time as a precaution and make sure to meet in a public place. However, kids should strictly refrain from meeting outsiders without parents' awareness.

### 06. Avoid using public computers

Try not to use public computers for your social networking activities. The safety of those machines cannot be guaranteed. If you happen to use such a computer, make sure to log out and to change your password as soon as possible (by logging in from your own computer or device) to prevent any mishaps.

If used with precautions, social media is an awesome tool. So, be cautious and be vigilant and more importantly, use your common sense.

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