Project Safe Childhood

Project Safe Childhood (PSC) aims to combat technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children. Its goals are to investigate and prosecute vigorously, and to protect and assist the victimized children. The organization recognizes the need for a broad, community-based effort to protect children.

PSC creates, on a national platform, locally designed partnerships of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers in each federal judicial district to investigate and prosecute Internet-based crimes against children. With the U.S. Attorney as the convener, each local community is able to design and implement programs that are uniquely tailored to its needs, while maximizing the impact of national resources and expertise.

The PSC partnerships in every district aim to address the five major components of the initiative, as follows:

1. Integrated federal, state, and local efforts to investigate and prosecute child exploitation cases, and to identify and rescue child victims: U.S. Attorneys coordinate the investigation and prosecution of child exploitation crimes, and the efforts to identify and rescue victims.

2. Participation of PSC partners in coordinated national initiatives: Child pornography cases are often initiated by law enforcement agents uncovering a peer-to-peer network, server, or Web site. Such national operations may be conducted by the FBI’s Innocent Images Unit, ICE’s Cyber Crime Center, USPIS’s Child Exploitation Task Forces, ICAC task forces, or others. These investigations can lead to hundreds or thousands of leads in communities throughout the country.

3. Increased federal involvement in child pornography and enticement cases: All states have laws in place to respond to child exploitation and abuse, and some states have very significant criminal laws and penalty provisions for child pornography offenders and online sexual predators that parallel or exceed those provided by federal law. However, federal law has some advantages over state law, so PSC strives to get federal prosecutors more involved in these types of cases.

4. Training of federal, state, and local law enforcement: Computer-based crimes present unique challenges for law enforcement. Investigators must be trained and have the necessary equipment to investigate and perform computer forensic analysis of targeted equipment. A key component of PSC is to ensure that federal, state, local, and tribal officers are properly instructed.

5. Community awareness and educational programs: PSC aims to enhance existing efforts to generate awareness and to educate the public about the threats to children and the ways to prevent online exploitation. It partners with existing national programs to raise awareness about the threat of online sexual predators and provide the tools and information to parents and children seeking to report possible violations.

Innocent Images National Initiative

The Innocent Images National Initiative (IINI), a component of the FBI’s Cyber Crimes Program, combats child pornography and child sexual exploitation facilitated by an online computer. It provides centralized coordination with state, local, and international governments. It also provides analysis of case information.

The following are the main goals of the IINI:

- To reduce the vulnerability of children to acts of sexual exploitation and abuse that are facilitated through the use of computers
- To identify and rescue unwitting child victims
- To investigate and prosecute sexual predators who use the Internet and other online services to sexually exploit children for personal or financial gain
- To strengthen the capabilities of federal, state, local, and international law enforcement through training programs and investigative assistance

The FBI’s Innocent Images National Initiative focuses on the following:

- Online organizations, enterprises, and communities that exploit children for profit or personal gain
- Producers of child pornography