


Chapter 4


Cybercrime and Child Protection: The Intersection of Law, Technology, and Parenting

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ABSTRACT

The digital world is evolving rapidly, bringing both incredible opportunities and serious risks—especially when it comes to protecting children. Law enforcement is using cutting-edge tools like artificial intelligence, digital forensics, and biometric identification to track down online predators and prevent cybercrimes. This chapter dives into how technology helps identify and prosecute offenders while tackling challenges like data encryption and cyber laws. Real-life cases of online grooming, child pornography networks, and cyberbullying remind us how crucial strong digital safeguards are. But technology alone isn't enough. Parents play a vital role in teaching kids about online safety, setting boundaries, and working with authorities when needed. The fight against cybercrime is a shared responsibility—one that requires collaboration between law enforcement, tech companies, and families to build a safer online space for children.

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INTRODUCTION

In the digital world, children are developing up, indulging in technologies that give unusual authorization to information, communication and social interaction. However, besides these advantages lies an increasing vulnerability to cybercrime. Online threat such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexual harassment, identity theft and susceptible to harmful content have emerged as vulnerable risk to children's safety and wellbeing (Quayle & Newman, 2016; Livingstone et al., 2017). Stated threats are not just technical challenges but complex social issues that need holistic approach involving legal system, technological safeguards and proactive parenting.

Cybercrime exposing children managed in a borderless, rapidly evolving digital world that often surpass the dimensions of traditional legal frameworks and parenting practices to respond productively. (UNICEF, 2019). Cybercriminals exploit anonymity, encrypted communications, and social media to access and exploit minors, frequently leaving law enforcement and parents struggling to keep up. (Europol, 2021). Regardless of advancement in child protection laws and cybersecurity tools, significant gap remain in implementation, execution and parental awareness. (Green et al.,2021)

This chapter is focused on the junction of very important domains: law, which goal is to offer a legal framework for justice and protection; technology, which together enables and combats cybercrime; and parenting, which is very crucial in shaping children's digital behavior and resilience. Earlier research demonstrated that effective parental mediation could control children's exposure to online harmful content, yet many parents feel unable to deal with this issue because of a generational digital divide (Livingstone & Byrne, 2018; Nikken & de Graaf, 2013).

Additionally, this chapter is significant because it covers an immediate and growing issue that affects millions of families globally. This chapter also aims to create possibilities for more effectively integrated, educated, and responsive responses to online child safety by examining the connection between parental duties, technological changes and legal framework. It also seeks to contribute to academic involvement, inform policymaking, and assist parents and professionals working on the front lines of child protection in the digital age.

CHILD PROTECTION

According to UNICEF, youth aged between fifteen to twenty-four are more prone to use the Internet than the rest of the world population, because this generational leap has been slowly decreasing over the last 4 years. As per the revised data by UNICEF, approximately 77 percent of people aged between fifteen to twenty-

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