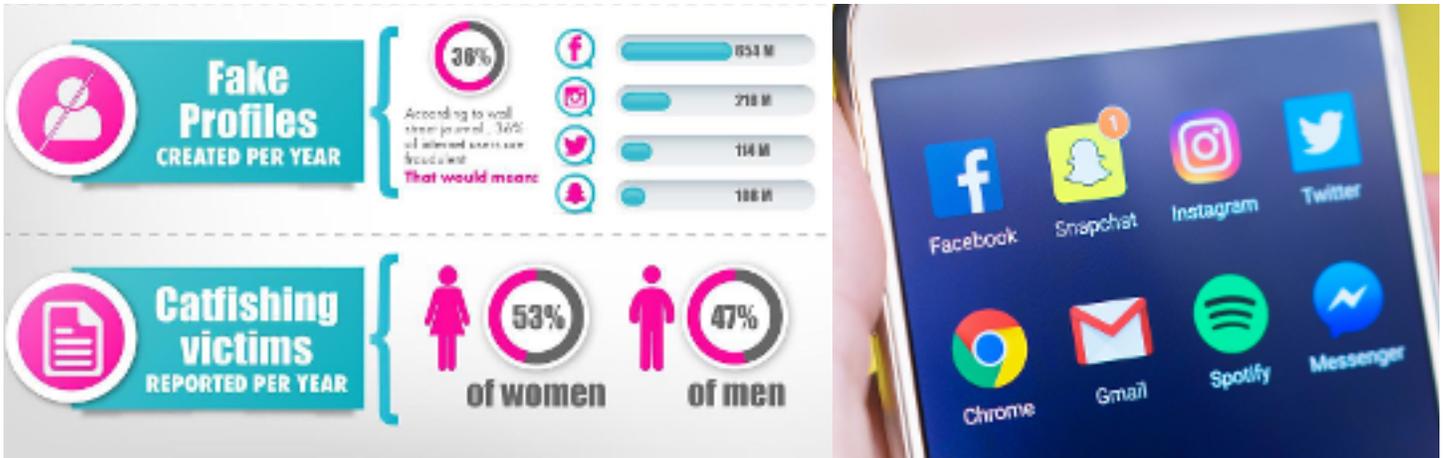# A FAMILY'S GUIDE TO
ONLINE SAFETY

Samantha's Story

"One day when I got home from school I tried to sign into my Facebook, but someone had changed my password! I was devastated. A hacker now had control of all of my pictures, posts, and private messages - including those with my boyfriend!

I told my parents right away and we asked Facebook to take down the account...we never heard back. I made a new account but the fake profile stayed up for seven years! Seven years that a stranger could look through my private pictures and use my name and face as their own.

I felt so violated that, even though I had a new profile, I barely ever posted anymore. There is still someone out there that has information that could help them steal my identity - I wish I would have paid more attention to online safety when I was growing up because getting hacked still haunts me..."

Samantha, *hacked at 17 years old*

What's your story?

Have you ever gotten hacked or impersonated online? Contact FaceChex to share your story and help to raise awareness about the importance of online safety!

What to do if you get hacked:

1. Report the hacked account to the website and to FaceChex to ensure a fast response

2. Change any duplicate passwords on other accounts (hopefully none!)

3. Inform others that were friends with your hacked account

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STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Online safety is a family affair. Take time to make sure everyone in the household understands the tips in this guide and how to protect themselves from internet-related issues.

Communication is key. You already talk as a family about what you did at work or school, try incorporating questions about online activity!

Fake profiles

Aside from hacking real profiles, it is now also common for people to copy public photos on other profiles and use them to create a fake profile. These fake profiles often seek to **steal valuable personal information** by pretending to be a "friend."

1 Personal information ✕

Never give out your phone number, home address, or other personal information online. Check pictures before posting to make sure they don't include identifying information, too!

2 Know your friend list

Keep a close eye on who you are friends with on your social media because they can see everything you post to friends. **Only accept requests from people you know personally.**

3 Report cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the use of electronic communication to bully a person. **If someone is harassing you online, report the behavior** *immediately.* Do not respond to the bully, tell a trusted adult!

4 Questionnaires ✕

Answering "5 Questions None of Your Friends Know About You" seems fun, but hackers often use this information (like your first pet) to try to steal your accounts. Remember: **do not fill out questionnaires!**

5 Inappropriate content ✕

Posting inappropriate content like pictures or videos can get you in trouble at school, prevent you from getting jobs, and **even get you in trouble legally.** This also applies to messages sent by minors!

6 Improve your passwords

A strong password is an important protection against hackers. Use a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols and **don't reuse passwords** in case one of your accounts is hacked.