

Nine Apps That Parents Should Know About

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SARASOTA, FL (WWSB) -- The Sarasota County Sheriff's recently arrested 21 men in an undercover sting called "Operation Intercept Five". The men are accused of soliciting minors, both boys and girls, for sex - often using social media apps.

In response, the Sheriff's Office is urging parents to be aware of just what apps may be on your child's phone (or tablet) and what some of them may *really* be used for. While some of these may seem innocent - they can be used to expose children to everything from online bullying to unwanted sexual messages - some of the apps can even give your child's location.

Here are the nine apps they identified:

- **BUMBLE** is similar to the popular dating app Tinder, however, it requires women to make the first contact. Kids have been known to use Bumble to create fake accounts and falsify their age.
- **SNAPCHAT** is one of the most popular apps of 2018. While the app promises that users can take a photo or a video and it will disappear, recent features added like "stories" allow users to view content for up to 24 hours. Snapchat also allows users to see your location.
- **KIK** allows anyone to contact AND direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. Kik also gives users unlimited access to anyone .. anywhere .. anytime.
- **LIVEME** is a live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. User's on this one can also earn "coins" as a way to pay minors for photos.
- **HOLLA** is a self-proclaimed "addicting" video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content, and more.
- **WHISPER** is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.
- **ASK.FM** is known for cyber bullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.
- **CALCULATOR%** falls into the category of "secret" apps - designed to *look* like other apps on a phone - but one that can hold and hide secret photos, videos, files, and even browser history.
- **HOT OR NOT** encourages users to rate your profile, check out people in their area, and chat with strangers. The goal of this app is to hook up.

<p>1</p>  <p>SNAPCHAT is one of the most popular apps of 2018. While the app promises users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, recent features including "stories" allow users to view content for up to 24 hours. Snapchat also allows users to see your location.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>BUMBLE is similar to the popular dating app, "Tinder," however, it requires women to make the first contact. Kids have been known to use Bumble to create false account and falsify their age.</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>LIVE.ME is a live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn "coins" as a way to "pay" minors for photos.</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>ASK.FM is known for cyber-bullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.</p>	
<p>5</p>  <p>CALCULATOR% is one of several secret apps used to hide photos, videos, files and browser history.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>KIK allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. KIK gives users unlimited access to anyone anywhere, anytime.</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>WHISPER is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>HOT OR NOT encourages users to rate profiles, check out people in their area, and chat with strangers. The goal of this app is to hook up.</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>HOLLA is a self-proclaimed "addicting" video chat that allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content and more.</p>