WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP WISCONSIN SAFE

WCPPA

Good Drugs Gone Bad

A comprehensive prevention kit supported by: Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association
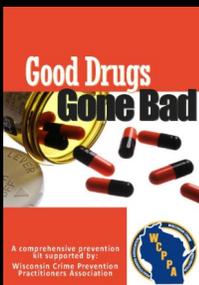
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Instagram

WHAT IS IT

Instagram is a picture-sharing social network, where users set up their own accounts, share images with followers, edit the images with different filters and digital effects, and share, like or comment on each other's images. Instagram has enjoyed the popularity of the "selfie" (images you take yourself, usually with a smartphone or tablet device), and users enjoy how easy it to share pictures and video with a comment or two, mention other users so they get notified, indicate where the image was taken, and include hashtags (search terms preceded by a #).

WHAT IS THE CONCERN

As with any of the other forms of social media, it tends to become a contest as to who have the most 'followers'. This will lead teens and adults to accept anyone as a 'follower' thus giving them access to whatever they post.

Some parents don't realize that Instagram also has a private message or chat feature called *Instagram Direct*. When using Instagram someone you follow can easily send you a private message with this feature. You should be aware that even If someone that your teen has not allowed to follow them can still send them a message! What happens is that the **message** will appear as a request in their inbox.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO

Instagram requires users to be at least 13 years of age. That may be a reason to use when your pre teen asks for an account. However as we all know, with the mobility of technology, teens have access to phones and tablets.

So the answer to this is to have a discussion with our child. If your child receives a bullying, abusive or otherwise unwanted message, do not respond to it as responding may encourage further messages. Instead, you should block the user and/or change your privacy settings to prevent future contact from the individual. If you believe the sender's behavior is unlawful, contact your local law enforcement for assistance