



# PRESS RELEASE

State of Louisiana  
Attorney General Charles C. Foti, Jr.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S HIGH TECH CRIME UNIT TEAMS UP WITH NATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO FIGHT INTERNET CRIME**

*National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Louisiana Boys & Girls Clubs Joining Forces with Attorney General*

**(Baton Rouge, La)** Attorney General Charles C. Foti, Jr., announced today that the AG's High Tech Crime Unit (HTCU) will be helping train teachers and law enforcement all across the state to implement the **NetSmartz** program in order to help kids, parents and teachers learn more about Internet safety.

On Wednesday, January 19, 2005 HTCU agents and Jenn Gillins from the NetSmartz program will conduct a training seminar for both law enforcement and teachers. The seminar will address what **NetSmartz** is, how it can be used effectively to teach Internet safety concepts, and how the Louisiana Attorney General's office, through the efforts of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Forces and Boys & Girls Clubs of America, will be assisting teachers and law enforcement officers in implementing the NetSmartz program. The training session will be held in the Livingston Building from 8:30am until 4:30pm. The first half of the session will be for law enforcement officers. The second part of the day will be devoted to training for teachers.

**A press conference with Attorney General Charles Foti and representatives from the Boys & Girls Club of America and NetSmartz will be held at 1:00pm in the Livingston building.**

**NetSmartz** is an interactive, educational safety resource that teaches kids and teens how to stay safe on the Internet. It was created by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The **NetSmartz** website is easily accessible to children, parents and teachers and uses the latest technology to create high impact educational activities for tech-savvy kids.

"We are seeing more and more crimes associated with the Internet and the worst are those that target children," stated General Foti. "This is a proactive measure we can take to try and stop those crimes before they are committed," Foti added.

Just last month, HTCU agents arrested Steven Duane Hood, a well known Baton Rouge dancer and fitness instructor, on one count of attempted pornography involving a juvenile. According to agents with the

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Attorney General's Office, Hood developed an online relationship with one of his underage female students that became sexually explicit in nature.

"We are excited that Louisiana has decided to share the NetSmartz Workshop with children statewide and are confident they will find our program both educational and entertaining," said Rick Minicucci, President, NetSmartz Workshop. "Children who have used our program report a positive change in their online behavior and an increased awareness of the possible dangers."

The **NetSmartz** website includes actual cases of children who have been victims of online predators. Agents with the Attorney General's HTCUC will also be relating recent cases the department has handled that illustrate how bad the problem has become.

All members of the media are invited to attend this event.

**NetSmartz Training**  
**Wednesday, January 19, 2005**  
**8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Press Conference with Attorney General Foti, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and NetSmartz**  
**1:00 p.m.**

**Livingston Building, 1st Floor Conference Room**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

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