

MAY 19TH, 2021



SAFE-T Newsletter



Keep Kids Safe This Summer

Summer is approaching fast! Summer is a great time for vacations, family outings, fun with friends, but unfortunately, for many, summer can bring a time for danger! Summer can be an exciting time for kids because school is out, but it is important to remember the dangers that summertime can bring for children. Take extra care to protect your kids if you have to leave your child at home alone while you work. Spend the extra time explaining your expectations for any time that your child will be unsupervised. Establish a regular schedule of check-in calls in which your child calls to let you know how and what they are doing. For older children, establish rules about friends coming over to visit, create a first aid kit and teach your child how to use it. Create a list of emergency phone contacts and keep it by the phone, or program them in a cell phone. Store alcohol and medication in a location that is completely inaccessible, along with any weapons in the home. Setting time limits for internet and parental access to accounts and passwords is important to prevent predators and pedophiles from gaining access to children's accounts, and their information on the internet. (Cont. Pg. 2)

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(Cont. from Pg. 1) Predators are known to use different tactics to lure victims, including asking for help, fake profiles, looking for sympathy, and asking for directions. Since children tend to be helpful and seek adult approval, it is easy for them to forget the rules and respond to the request. It is critical that children learn not to engage with strangers and particularly not to respond to behavior that could be luring them away. You want your children to trust police officers, not fear them. Many children believe police officers will come and get them if they are bad or misbehaving, and take them to jail. Let them know they can get help from officers, and they can call or text 911, in the event of an emergency.

Keeping a consistent routine has benefits for both children and parents during the summer, as well as the school year. Structure not only helps children deal with stress but can also help teach responsibility and self-control. (Cont. Pg. 6)



Online Safety Webinar Part 2:

Safeguarding Pre-Teens Against Online Abuse and Exploitation Risks

MAY 25, 2021 | TUESDAY | 1PM - 2PM



Click [here](#)
to join from your browser
or use
Meeting ID: 820 8756 4818
Passcode: 830956
to join from your app.

In our next webinar we will be discussing common **Internet Safety Risks for Abuse and Exploitation of pre-teen/tween youth (9-11 year olds)**. We will cover topics like cyberbullying, why internet safety matters, the risks that tweens encounter online, strategies and resources for helping them stay safe online, and guidance on how to report suspected online enticement or sexual exploitation of a child. Below are some of the risks we will be talking about.

- **Content** risks include coming across material that some pre-teens might find upsetting, disgusting or otherwise uncomfortable, especially if they see it accidentally.
- **Contact** risks include tweens coming into contact with people they don't know or with adults posing as children online. For example, a child might be invited or persuaded to meet someone they don't know, share personal information with strangers, or provide contact details after clicking on a pop-up message.
- **Conduct** risks for pre-teens include behaving in inappropriate or hurtful ways, or being the victim of this kind of behaviour.

There are many strategies that can be used to help your pre-teen child(ren) stay safe online, but one of the most important ways is through trust. **Trust between you and your child(ren) is one of the most protective factors there is when it comes to helping them be safe.** Having calm, open conversations about internet use can help your child(ren) feel that you trust them to be responsible online. And if your child(ren) feels trusted, they're more likely to talk with you about what they do online and tell you about online content and contacts that worry them. (Raising Children Network)



Crisis Response Team Training (Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Volunteers) needed at all SAFE-T locations: Mount Pleasant, Paris, Clarksville, & Sulphur Springs.

If you are interested in becoming an Advocate for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivors, a Face-to-Face Technology Training will be held June 23rd, 2021 from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Program Director Mary Ferguson at 903-572-0973 or Email: mferguson@safe-tagency.com to register.

Financial abuse is a powerful form of domestic violence that prevents survivors from leaving unhealthy relationships. You can help survivors get the education they need, like where to start to improve credit. Help a survivor begin to break free by telling them about Allstate's Moving Ahead Online Curriculum. Allstate knows that financial planning and management is a life-long process. The journey to gain control of your financial future and freedom can start now. Allstate's Moving Ahead online curriculum is designed for domestic violence survivors and can help provide the guidance and tools needed to make important financial decisions and work toward gaining long-term financial security. To learn more click [HERE](#).



(Cont. from Pg. 2)The main things to consider when creating structure are consistency, predictability, following through by imposing a consistent time and staying on a regular schedule, to help with knowing what and when to expect things to happen. A consistent routine provides less frustration, less confusion, and less stress. Remembering things, such as limited sun exposure, sunscreen, staying hydrated, insect repellent, and buddy systems on swimming, hiking, and camping trips, will help make the summer break more enjoyable for everyone. Keep it positive! Summer is a time to enjoy the sunshine and fellowship with family and friends while staying safe.



Shelter Donations Needed!

Please drop off
all donations at our
Main Office at 204
Patrick St. Mount
Pleasant, TX or the
Thrift Store at 1014
West 1st St in Mt.
Pleasant, TX

- pillows, comforters & throws
- cleaning supplies
- underwear (men & women, all sizes)
- clothes detergent powder
- towels
- twin size sheets
- soap
- hand sanitizer
- socks (men, women, & children)
- baby wipes



Call 903-572-0973 for
more information.





SAFE-T Thrift Store

1014 W 1st St Mount Pleasant, TX 75455

Store: (903) 577-9035 9am - 6pm

We gratefully accept the following donated items:

Gently used clothing
Gently used shoes
Gently used furniture
Household items
Appliances
Pet items

Books
Toys
Curtains and Drapes
Electronics
Lighting
Home hardware

On every Wednesday, we have a storewide 20% discount for everyone over 55.
May 20th- 50% Off Kitchen
May 21st- Spin The Wheel
May 22nd- 10% Off Storewide
May 24th- 75% off Yellow clothing tags
May 25th- 15% off storewide





TEXAS MEN S.P.E.A.K

SUPPORTING
PREVENTION
EDUCATION
ADVOCACY &
KNOWLEDGE

IMPACT OF TOXIC MASCULINITY ON MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

THURSDAY

5.27.21 | 10-11 AM CST

Virtual Gathering on Zoom

*How does toxic
masculinity affect
our mental and
physical health?*



RSVP to Emiliano Diaz de Leon
at txmenspeak@taasa.org for
Zoom meeting information.



Men please join the next monthly Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) #Texas #Men SPEAK virtual gathering 5.27.21 at 10:00 am CST.

Join in for a discussion on the impact of #toxicmasculinity on #mental and #physical #health.

RSVP to Emiliano Diaz de Leon at txmenspeak@taasa.org for Zoom meeting information.

* This initiative is intended for male-identified individuals in Texas.

- #SEXUALVIOLENCE
- #PREVENTION
- #TXMENSPEAK
- #MENTALHEALTH
- #MENTALHEALTHAWARENESS
- #PHYSICALHEALTH

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Almost half of Americans will experience a mental illness once in their lifetime. Half of those will have symptoms begin before the age of 14. The most common mental health conditions are anxiety and depression. Trauma and abuse can affect how you feel about yourself and how you relate to others. These experiences place people at a higher risk for developing mental health conditions like anxiety, PTSD, and depression. Survivors of Domestic Violence often experience ongoing anxiety and depression, emotional distress, eating and sleeping disturbances, and physical symptoms, like headaches and stomach aches.

Let your self-healing begin today and reach out to an advocate at SAFE-T for empowerment and support

If you have any questions, call our office at 903-572-0973 where you can speak to an advocate immediately for answers and understanding.

If you need to speak to someone after hours, the SAFE-T Hotline is answered 24 hours a day - call or text (903)575-9999.

- #notalone
- #itsoktonotbeok
- #MHM
- #mentalhealthmatters
- #mentalhealthawarenessmonth



ADVANCE CHILD TAX CREDIT PAYMENTS IN 2021

THERE HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE CHILD TAX CREDIT THAT WILL HELP MANY FAMILIES RECEIVE ADVANCE PAYMENTS STARTING THIS SUMMER. THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) OF 2021 EXPANDS THE CHILD TAX CREDIT (CTC) FOR TAX YEAR 2021 ONLY.

THE EXPANDED CREDIT MEANS:

- THE CREDIT AMOUNTS WILL INCREASE FOR MANY TAXPAYERS.
- THE CREDIT FOR QUALIFYING CHILDREN IS FULLY REFUNDABLE, WHICH MEANS THAT TAXPAYERS CAN BENEFIT FROM THE CREDIT EVEN IF THEY DON'T HAVE EARNED INCOME OR DON'T OWE ANY INCOME TAXES.
- THE CREDIT WILL INCLUDE CHILDREN WHO TURN AGE 17 IN 2021.
- TAXPAYERS MAY RECEIVE PART OF THEIR CREDIT IN 2021 BEFORE FILING THEIR 2021 TAX RETURN.

FOR TAX YEAR 2021, FAMILIES CLAIMING THE CTC WILL RECEIVE UP TO \$3,000 PER QUALIFYING CHILD BETWEEN THE AGES OF 6 AND 17 AT THE END OF 2021. THEY WILL RECEIVE \$3,600 PER QUALIFYING CHILD UNDER AGE 6 AT THE END OF 2021. UNDER THE PRIOR LAW, THE AMOUNT OF THE CTC WAS UP TO \$2,000 PER QUALIFYING CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 17 AT THE END OF THE YEAR. THE INCREASED AMOUNTS ARE REDUCED (PHASED OUT), FOR INCOMES OVER \$150,000 FOR MARRIED TAXPAYERS FILING A JOINT RETURN AND QUALIFYING WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS, \$112,500 FOR HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD, AND \$75,000 FOR ALL OTHER TAXPAYERS.

ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF THE 2021 CHILD TAX CREDIT WILL BE MADE REGULARLY FROM JULY THROUGH DECEMBER TO ELIGIBLE TAXPAYERS WHO HAVE A MAIN HOME IN THE UNITED STATES FOR MORE THAN HALF THE YEAR. THE TOTAL OF THE ADVANCE PAYMENTS WILL BE UP TO 50 PERCENT OF THE CHILD TAX CREDIT. ADVANCE PAYMENTS WILL BE ESTIMATED FROM INFORMATION INCLUDED IN ELIGIBLE TAXPAYERS' 2020 TAX RETURNS (OR THEIR 2019 RETURNS IF THE 2020 RETURNS ARE NOT FILED AND PROCESSED YET).

THE IRS URGES PEOPLE WITH CHILDREN TO FILE THEIR 2020 TAX RETURNS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE ELIGIBLE FOR THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF THE CTC AS WELL AS ANY OTHER TAX CREDITS THEY'RE ELIGIBLE FOR, INCLUDING THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC). FILING ELECTRONICALLY WITH DIRECT DEPOSIT ALSO CAN SPEED REFUNDS AND FUTURE ADVANCE CTC PAYMENTS.

ELIGIBLE TAXPAYERS DO NOT NEED TO TAKE ANY ACTION NOW OTHER THAN TO FILE THEIR 2020 TAX RETURN IF THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO.

ELIGIBLE TAXPAYERS WHO DO NOT WANT TO RECEIVE ADVANCE PAYMENT OF THE 2021 CHILD TAX CREDIT WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DECLINE RECEIVING ADVANCE PAYMENTS. TAXPAYERS WILL ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO UPDATE INFORMATION ABOUT CHANGES IN THEIR INCOME, FILING STATUS OR THE NUMBER OF QUALIFYING CHILDREN. MORE DETAILS ON HOW TO TAKE THESE STEPS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON.

THE IRS ALSO URGES COMMUNITY GROUPS, NON-PROFITS, ASSOCIATIONS, EDUCATION GROUPS AND ANYONE ELSE WITH CONNECTIONS TO PEOPLE WITH CHILDREN TO SHARE THIS CRITICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CTC. THE IRS WILL BE PROVIDING ADDITIONAL MATERIALS AND INFORMATION THAT CAN BE EASILY SHARED BY SOCIAL MEDIA, EMAIL AND OTHER METHODS. THE IRS WILL PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ADVANCE PAYMENTS SOON.