

March 20, 2006

Attorney Christine Varney  
Hogan & Hartson, LLP  
Columbia Square  
555 Thirteenth Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Ms. Varney:

I have appreciated your responding to my concerns about MySpace.com ("MySpace"), providing the opportunity to meet with you and your colleagues, including MySpace.com's Chief Executive Officer Chris DeWolfe, as well as our continuing discussions.

The preliminary steps outlined in your letter are a welcome start, but I am deeply concerned that they would leave children at risk from pornography and sexual predators and other potential problems. While our discussions have been encouraging, I ask MySpace to take certain specific practical steps to address immediately the most critical concerns identified by my office. These measures are technologically feasible, as well as consistent with your stated terms of service and your own explicit goal of prohibiting nudity and other offensive or inappropriate material from your website:

- Provide filtering software on the website that parents can download to block access to MySpace, as well as other websites that include sexually explicit material and other inappropriate content.
- Ban anyone under 16 from MySpace. If 14 and 15 year olds have access to any site, it should be separate and distinct. This new possible website should also ban children under the age of 14.
- Initiate a member login with age verification to regulate visitors viewing other member profiles, including pictures and access to group materials. Any access to adult content should be vigorously restricted to individuals 18 or older.
- Implement technology to ensure that 14 and 15 year olds are prohibited from changing their profile settings from private to public, and no photos or profiles of minors can be viewed by anyone older than 16 without parental consent.
- Increase staffing and employ additional filtering technology to effectively block nudity and sexually explicit images and other violations of MySpace terms of service and preclude people looking for sex from communicating or contacting



children. MySpace should also do proactive manual searches of its site for material that violates its terms of service.

- Delete anyone who violates MySpace terms of service, and permanently ban a user from MySpace for continually posting prohibited deep links with pornography or other inappropriate material.
- Establish the new Security Director as an aggressive watchdog independent and separate from the corporate hierarchy reporting directly to the Board of Directors.
- Delete explicit reference to swingers as a browse term and groups or clubs identified as swingers or people seeking sex.
- Fully disclose in clear and conspicuous terms that MySpace contains explicit sexual content and users seeking sexual encounters, and prior use of the site by sexual predators to target minors.

Although new technology may be needed to fully protect children, much of it is already available. This site now exposes young people to a perilous cyber environment with people posting sexually explicit materials and looking for sexual relationships. In fact, children can still view pornographic images, links to X-rated websites, "clubs" involving adults seeking sexual encounters, and webcam sex for sale offers. I ask you to adopt my proposed steps immediately even as you develop new technology offering better protections.

I am prepared to continue our constructive discussions and ask that you contact my office. I welcome any other ideas you may have for advancing our shared goal of making MySpace a safe site for all. Again, thank you for taking the time to visit us and being responsive to our concerns. I look forward to making further progress in the coming days.

Sincerely,

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

RB/pas



JIM PETRO  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
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March 24, 2006

Chris DeWolfe, CEO  
MySpace.com  
1333 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Dear Mr. DeWolfe:

I am increasingly concerned by reports that young children using MySpace.com have been victims of harassment, sexual solicitation, and even sexual assault. One such incident is currently under investigation by the Broadview (Ohio) Police Department involving the alleged rape of a 14-year-old Ohio student by an adult male she met on your Web site. Although social networking sites can be a fun way to interact with friends and family, I am concerned that your current operating policies may place children at risk.

Over the last several months, my office and local law enforcement have received complaints from parents regarding the type of information minors can access on your site. A simple search of your site demonstrates that children can easily access a myriad of inappropriate material such as pornographic images, ads for sexual products, obscene language, and various references to the use of illegal substances. This material is in direct conflict with paragraph five of your "Terms of Use Agreement" which states, "a profile may not include the following items: ...photographs containing nudity, or obscene, lewd, excessively violent, harassing, sexually explicit or otherwise objectionable subject matter".

To address these concerns, I ask that you consider the following actions to safeguard children against potential abuse and exploitation. My office believes these enhancements would be in the best interest of all affected parties.

EXHIBIT

B

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DeWolfe, Chris  
March 24, 2006  
Page 2

1. Increase the minimum user age from 14 to 16 and prohibit adult users from accessing the profiles of minors.
2. Explicitly state in the Terms of Use Agreement and during login that the site contains sexually explicit material and that users have no expectation of privacy in regards to information posted on MySpace.com
3. Require that all new users enter a verifiable credit card number during the registration process. Upon successful completion of the verification process, a brochure describing the site and a hard copy of the Terms of Use Agreement should be sent to the card holder.
4. Place a "report misconduct" button on every MySpace page.
5. Increase the company's ability to identify, remove, and respond to violations of MySpace policies by expanding the use of filtering technology.
6. Implement a "zero tolerance" policy regarding the violation of MySpace Terms of Use Agreement. Members violating the policy should be permanently barred from the site and their profiles should be purged from the system.
7. Establish an independent board or commission to assist the company in proactively dealing with privacy and security concerns.
8. Prohibit minors from accessing groups, clubs, or profiles that contain adult content.

Although the convenience of the Internet may be a gateway to limitless information, it can also be fraught with pitfalls that may be dangerous to the unsuspecting user. Under its current conceptualization, MySpace increases youth exposure to inappropriate material, placing them at a higher risk of victimization. It is my hope that you will immediately move to implement the recommendations listed above.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,



Jim Petro  
Ohio Attorney General

THE OFFICE OF MASSACHUSETTS ATTORNEY GENERAL *Tom Reilly*

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## AG REILLY DEMANDS CHANGES TO MYSPACE.COM WEBSITE TO PROTECT TEENS FROM ONLINE PREDATORS

### Calls on website to take immediate steps to be

May 2, 2006

**CONTACT: MEREDITH BAUMANN**  
**(617) 727-2543**

**BOSTON** -- Attorney General Tom Reilly is demanding that MySpace.com, the popular social networking site, make dramatic changes to its web site to ensure the safety of minors who use MySpace.

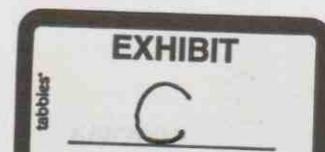
In a letter to company officials, AG Reilly demanded that MySpace increase its minimum user age from 14 to 18 after an investigation he launched in March 2006 revealed that MySpace does not have sufficient safeguards in place to protect children from sexually explicit and other inappropriate content.

AG Reilly's investigation also raised concerns that potential child predators use MySpace to locate and communicate with possible victims and that MySpace is also used to post violent images or content to bully or threaten children.

"MySpace allows 14 and 15 year-olds to register as members of its 'community' and claims to be able to protect their safety," AG Reilly said. "Our investigation revealed that these measures are not effective and do not protect children from being exposed to inappropriate content they just shouldn't see."

AG Reilly called on MySpace to improve the safety and security of its site by:

- Instituting an age and identity verification system;
- Equipping every MySpace page with a "Report Inappropriate Content" link;



- Responding to all reports of inappropriate content within 24 hours;
- Increasing significantly the number of employees who review images and content on the MySpace website;
- Implementing filtering technology that effectively blocks sexually explicit or violent images;
- Immediately deleting any profiles that violate MySpace's Terms of Use Agreement and permanently banning those members from using the site;
- Immediately removing all advertisements and other MySpace sponsored content that are inappropriate for children; and
- Offering free, downloadable software that allows parents to block use of MySpace.

AG Reilly's staff met with MySpace in March 2006 to discuss their concerns with how the website operated. Although MySpace maintains that only members under the age of 18 can view the profiles of members ages 14-15 years old, AG Reilly's investigation found that MySpace does not have any system in place to verify its members' ages. As a result, an adult can register as a minor member and use that profile to seek access to the profiles of countless underage members.

AG Reilly's investigators were able to register as minors 14 and 15 years old. The investigators were then able to gain access to numerous profiles of children between the ages of 14 and 17 years old.

The investigators also discovered that any user, regardless of age, can browse the MySpace website and find forums where children are posting messages. In these various forums, adults can not only view the child's picture, age, and hometown, but they can also communicate with the child.

AG Reilly criticized MySpace's own content on its website for contributing to the exposure of children to inappropriate content and communications. For example, the investigation revealed that MySpace regularly advertises 18+ "Intimate Dating" sites in its "High School" forums. During the investigation, MySpace's own search parameters allowed 14 and 15 year olds to search the site for "swingers" or designate themselves as "smokers" or "drinkers" in their user profiles.

AG Reilly's Office has become a known and respected resource on the ever-evolving world of the Internet, particularly as it relates to child safety. Since taking office, AG Reilly has devoted unprecedented resources to protecting Internet users and has dedicated staff specifically to education and training efforts.

As part of an effort to enhance parental awareness of online safety for children, AG Reilly's Office is leading a series of workshops throughout Massachusetts to educate parents about the dangers that children face when using the Internet. Today AG

Reilly will conduct an Internet Safety program for parents in Weymouth warning them of the potential dangers that exist when their children use the Internet. In an April sting operation, AG Reilly charged six people for allegedly using the Internet to possess or disseminate child pornography.

AG Reilly has also worked to make the Internet safe for consumers, recently publishing a revised Consumer Guide to the Internet that provides parents with tips on how to make their children's online activities safer. Safety tips also describe how to avoid identity theft and so-called "phishing" schemes.

**[Return to article list](#)**

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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

May 22, 2006

Mr. Christopher DeWolfe  
Chief Executive Officer  
MySpace, Inc.  
1333 Second St.  
Santa Monica, California 90401

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg  
Chief Executive Officer  
TheFacebook, Inc.  
471 Emerson St.  
Palo Alto, California 94301-1605

Mr. John Hiler  
Chief Executive Officer  
Xanga.com  
555 8th Ave. FL. 21  
New York, New York 10018

Mr. Jonathan Abrams  
Chief Executive Officer  
Friendster, Inc.  
1380 Villa St.  
Mountain View, California 94041

Dear Sirs:

As Attorney General of Texas, I have become increasingly concerned about the reports of sexual predators using social networking websites such as MySpace.com, Xanga, Friendster and Facebook to lure young children into dangerous, potentially life threatening situations. To that end, today I am writing to urge you to take measures to protect the millions of children who use your services daily. By taking a few proactive steps, you can make your websites safer for all users, especially children.

#### **Identity Verification**

By not requiring bank account information or a credit card in order to access your services, you have no way of authenticating the identity or age of your users, thereby providing a blanket of anonymity to those who wish to engage in criminal activity on your website. I request that you take steps to verify the identity of those individuals using your sites to post harmful or illegal images and to engage in two way communications. Although I understand that you currently use an age verification system, our investigators have found it uncomfortably easy in a relatively short period of time to locate many underage profiles on your sites. A system of identity/age verification via credit card or a verified e-mail account would be a better system than the current methods used by your websites.

#### **Child Pornography Identification**

I understand that software exists which scans photographic images before they are posted on user accounts or anywhere else on your sites. The software assigns a hash value (based on algorithms) to each photograph and then attempts to match it against a database, maintained by your sites, that contains the hash values of many known images of child pornography. This software is already being utilized by AOL to prevent images of child pornography from being

EXHIBIT

D

May 22, 2006

Page 2

transmitted via e-mail. You should install the same database that automatically scans all uploaded images prior to allowing them to be posted on your systems. When an image's hash value matches that of a known image of child pornography, the posting of that image could be blocked and the incident reported to the proper authorities.

### **Oversight of Websites**

Finally, I urge you to consider increasing the number of staff dedicated to reviewing images and profiles which violate the terms of use policies of your websites. With hundreds of thousands of new users registering daily, it is impossible to keep up with this responsibility with current resources.

I know many state officials are calling on you to stand up for the safety and security of our children. I add my voice to theirs and hope you will choose to do what is right for our children. While the young girls of my generation wrote in diaries that protected their life stories under lock and key, the young children of today post the most intimate details of their lives in a public forum, one where sexual predators lurk around every corner. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future about the actions you will be taking on this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Greg Abbott  
Attorney General of Texas