

The Law-Related Education Academy is facilitated by the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education with funding made possible by the Arizona Department of Education School Safety Program.

“Social Media Savvy”: Academy
(Staff & Community)

What’s Up with WhatsApp? Community Lesson Handout

This lesson is to be used with the adult school community; not students

WhatsApp Description

- Mobile Messaging App available on most devices
- Utilized existing phone contacts with no fees
- Group Chat with up to 256 App users

How To:

- **Set Privacy Settings:** WhatsApp > Settings > Account > Privacy
- **Exit Group Chat:** Name of group > Group Info > Exit Group
- **Block Sender:** Settings > Account > Privacy > Blocked Contacts
- **Delete Contact:** Contact List > Highlight > Delete
- **Disable Account:** Settings > Account > Delete My Account
- **Delete Account:** WhatsApp > Menu > Settings > Account > Delete > Enter Full Phone Number > Delete my Account

Be Aware:

- Your online status (online or not) cannot be hidden from the public users of WhatsApp
- The **Default Status** is set to **‘Public’**, any WhatsApp user can view who is online
- The popularity of the app makes it a target for hackers, encrypted messages can still be hacked
- Postings last 24 hours, enough time for cybercriminals and contacts to access content and use anyway they want
- The **Alert** feature that informs when other users from your contact list are online, cannot be disabled
- Any app user can contact you or your contacts and request to be added to your contact list or your contacts’
- Group chats can still contain contacts you have blocked or are not in your contact list
- You cannot control if you are added in a group chat, however you can always exit

Parent Tips:

- Discuss which **Profile Photo** is appropriate to upload. This photo can be changed within 30 days of setting up the account, after that it cannot be changed. The photo does not have to be an image of the user. Discuss the pros and cons of posting a picture of themselves as the profile
- Discuss with your teen who should be added to their **WhatsApp Contact List** and the importance of discussing any future contacts they wish to add
- Discuss Pros and Cons of each **Status Messages Setting**. “Everyone” would allow the public user to see their information; “My Contacts” would only allow the contact users they indicate; and “Nobody” would not allow anyone to view their information
- Discuss with your teen, pros and cons for setting ‘On’ or ‘Off’ their **Location Tagging** when a photo or video is taken. Information will appear on a map to App users in their contact list when the setting is ‘On’
- Review how to **Delete and Block** unwanted, inappropriate content or unknown contacts. Encourage your teen to report to you anytime they feel the need to block content or delete a contact
- View **Last Seen** that shows last time your teen shared with contacts
- Inform your teen that they can leave a group chat if they don’t know someone in the group or the chat makes them feel uncomfortable for any reason
- Check out all apps and icons in your teen’s devices, some could be hidden vault apps that hide their apps, photo albums, videos, sexting, and alternative accounts. Look for duplicate apps, research what is ‘trending’, place mobile parental controls, and keep communication going with your teen
- Encourage your teen to share any experiences that makes them uncomfortable, cause uncertainty, or promote questions
- Research popular monitoring devices that allows you to view and be alerted to your teen’s online activity