



TASK FORCE INFORMATION:

The ICAC Task Force is comprised of Federal, State and Local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and investigates and prosecutes individuals who use the Internet to sexually exploit and abuse children. The Iowa Department of Justice is an active member of the ICAC Task Force and in partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Safety's Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) it provides investigative and prosecutorial assistance to state and local jurisdictions as well as presenting community awareness programs across the state. The ICAC Task Force mission is to safeguard our children from Internet sexual exploitation through a program of community education, aggressive investigation and effective prosecution.

The Internet clearly influences how we discover and interact with the world around us. Unfortunately, "cyberspace" is not always a safe place. Activities such as exchanging child pornography, seeking victims online and enticing young people into off-line meetings are common. Such activities can have lethal results. A recent study by the U.S. Department of Justice reports there are over one million pornographic images of children on-line with 200 new images posted daily. Sadly, more than 6% of the victims in these cases are infants and a full 58% beyond that are pre-pubescent children. 1 in 7 children ages 10-17 were sexually solicited on line last year, 1 in 33 was aggressively solicited by someone they first met on line.

Youth as young as middle school age are becoming involved in the dangerous practices of "sexting" and cyber-bullying both of which can have tragic and devastating effects on the lives of young people who do not understand the very real and serious consequences of their actions.

SPEAKER INFORMATION:

Mike Ferjak is a senior criminal investigator with the Iowa Department of Justice- Office of the Attorney General. He has been involved with the law enforcement profession since 1973 and has served in positions ranging from patrol officer to Chief of Police. Since 1998 he has been assigned to the Area Prosecutions Division of the Department of Justice. In addition to general criminal cases, he has specialized in sexual predator cases for the past eleven years. Since 2004 Mike has been specially assigned as the Department of Justice's lead investigator to the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force and is a member of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Cyber-Crime Unit.

Mike graduated with honors from Upper Iowa University and is an honor graduate of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. He has completed various state, federal and international professional and technical training programs. Highlights of his professional education include highly specialized training in criminal intelligence analysis, forensic and behavioral interviewing, written language analysis and cyber-crime investigative techniques.

Mike lectures internationally on investigative procedures and techniques and serves as an adjunct faculty member of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the National Institute of Justice Electronic Crimes Partnership initiative. He is an invited guest lecturer at Drake University's Law School and Simpson College's Criminal Justice program on topics of domestic and sexual violence, sexual predators and related law enforcement issues. He is Vice-Chair of the Iowa ICAC Task Force Advisory Board and represents Iowa on the National Association of Attorneys General Internet Working Group.