

Local

GRADD offers social media safety workshop

✍ By Renee Beasley Jones Messenger-Inquirer

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Parents, grandparents and guardians who aren't up to speed on Snapchat, Twitter and Facebook can attend a workshop on the hidden dangers of social media.

The Green River Area Development District's Community Collaboration for Children will present a social media safety workshop from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 24 at the GRADD office, 300 GRADD Way.

Detective Lt. Scott Noisworthy of the Christian County Sheriff Department will be the guest speaker. He was in training Friday and unavailable for comment.

"Technology is moving so fast that parents and grandparents may not be aware," said Kristy Clark, CCC coordinator. "We're hosting this workshop so they can know what their kids are being exposed to."

She said Noisworthy will discuss applications that can be downloaded on cell phones that may be predatory and a host of other topics.

"My primary goal is to educate people with kids in their lives," Clark said.

Owensboro Police Department Sgt. Brandon Sims is the supervisor of the juvenile investigations unit. Sims was pleased to hear GRADD was offering a class on social media safety.

"We stress if you are going to allow your kids to have access to this stuff, you need to monitor it," he said.

When children first start to use social media, parents should discuss rules and risks, Sims said. And they should ask for passwords so they can review account activity.

"A lot of times children can't see the dangers that we, as adults, can see," Sims said.

It's also important for parents to know as much about navigating social media sites as possible, he said. If adults don't understand how to use the technology, they can't monitor activity as thoroughly as they should.

OPD has officers who specialize internet crimes against children, and the department makes presentations about social media safety upon request.

The upcoming GRADD seminar is free to the public.

Space is limited, and lunch will be served. Reservations are required.

The deadline to register is April 19. Call Libby Watson at 270-926-4433.

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