

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Since 2004, October has been declared National Cyber Security Awareness Month, bringing awareness to the importance of online safety, and helping individuals protect themselves as threats to technology and confidential data have become increasingly more commonplace; and

WHEREAS: According to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, individuals can take four basic steps to aid in personal online security: enable multi-factor authentication; use strong passwords; recognize and report phishing; update software; and

WHEREAS: Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, children have spent an increased amount of time in front of screens, and online predators have been able to follow them there. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, in 2021, there were more than 29 million reports of suspected child online sexual exploitation, an increase of 35 percent from 2020 and an all-time high; and

WHEREAS: Kids should talk with a trusted adult to understand online risks. The U.S. Department of Justice advises that children should only chat with people they know, block people they do not trust, ensure their online accounts are private, and trust their instinct; and

WHEREAS: Parents, guardians, caregivers, and teachers can take the following steps to help protect children from becoming victims of online child predators: discuss internet safety and develop an online safety plan; supervise young children's use of the internet; review games, apps, and social media sites used by children; adjust privacy settings and use parental controls; be alert to potential signs of abuse; tell children to avoid sharing personal information, photos, and videos online; teach children about body safety and boundaries; encourage children to tell a trusted adult if anyone asks them to engage in sexual activity or inappropriate behavior online; and immediately report suspected online enticement or sexual exploitation of a child by calling 911, contacting the FBI, or filing a report with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim October 10th, 2022, as

ONLINE SAFETY AWARENESS DAY IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I encourage my fellow Arkansans to join me in taking basic steps to protect their online information and privacy, and practice safe online habits.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 6th day of October, in the year of our Lord 2022.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:


John Thurston, Secretary of State