





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:** [NAME]

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**WQED Multimedia and iQsmartparent Present a**

 **Special, Live National Webcast**

**“Cyber-Safety: Privacy, Protection, and the Latest Laws Affecting**

 **Children and Families"**

**WQED’s nationally-distributed television program *iQ: smartparent* comes to the web with a special, live national webcast on March 9, 2018 - 11:30am EST – “Cyber-Safety: Privacy, Protection, and the Latest Laws Affecting Children and Families."**

**The episode is available at** [**www.iqsmartparent.org**](http://www.iqsmartparent.org)**/webcasts beginning at 11:30am EST on March 9.**

**#iqCyberSafety or** [**https://www.wqed.org/smartparent/webcasts/submit-question**](https://www.wqed.org/smartparent/webcasts/submit-question) **to submit questions for the panel in advance.**

Viewers will be able to submit questions for the panel through social media and have those questions answered live during the program, and people also can submit questions in advance through social media.

New media technology has given us the means to connect with people around the world . . . but that comes with tremendous benefits and serious risks.

This special one-hour live webcast will include regional and national experts who explore and explain vital information about safety and privacy settings online and they will reveal how predators, cyber-bullies, and marketers evade them. Discover ways to protect your privacy; manage your social media “footprint”; and recognize and report online harassment.

In addition, legal experts will explain important new “sexting” laws and what they mean for minors; and, they will reveal strategies for young people to defend themselves from and report online predators.

This special program also delves into the personal experiences of two survivors of online harassment and sexual predators. Hear how their traumatic experiences unfolded and listen to their advice for seeking help and moving forward if you, too, are a victim of this abuse.

Panel guests for this episode include:

* Alicia Kozakiewicz, Creator of The Alicia Project and a child sexual exploitation survivor
* Detective Steve Dish, FBI Violent Crimes Against Children Task Force
* Dena Haritos Tsamitis, Director of Carnegie Mellon University’s Information Networking Institute
* Kelsey Meacham, Allegheny County Police Analyst
* Megan Galloway, Allegheny County Police Analyst

Viewers will be able to submit questions for the panel through social media at #iqCyberSafetyand have those questions answered live during the program. WQED Multimedia also will provide customizable marketing/promotion materials and Discussion Guides for groups to hold off-site Watch Parties and town hall meetings.

**About *iQ: smartparent***

WQED launched *iQ: smartparent* in 2013 in response to a [research study of parents](http://www.wqed.org/smartparent) who expressed their desire to build their confidence with educational, 21st century media and expand their capacity for co-learning with their digitally savvy children. Today, *iQ: smartparent* airs in more than 70 markets around the country and is distributed by American Public Television (APT). Through the five seasons of the series and a robust online community, *iQ: smartparent* has equipped parents and caregivers with tools and resources to aid their understanding and use of digital media and technologies for learning.

**About APT:**
[American Public Television](file:///%5C%5C192.168.200.21%5CCommunication%5CAPT%20Boilerplate%5CAPTonline.org) (APT) is the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation’s public television stations. For more than 10 years, APT distributed one-third or more of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. Founded in 1961, among its 250 new program titles per year, APT programs include prominent documentaries, performance, news and current affairs programs, dramas, how-to programs, children’s series and classic movies, considered some of the most popular on public television. APT licenses programs internationally through its [APT Worldwide](http://aptww.org/) service. Now in its 13th year, [Create®TV](file:///%5C%5C192.168.200.21%5CCommunication%5CAPT%20Boilerplate%5CCreateTV.com) — featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming — is distributed by American Public Television. APT also distributes [WORLD](file:///%5C%5C192.168.200.21%5CCommunication%5CAPT%20Boilerplate%5Cworldchannel.org)™, public television’s premier news, science and documentary channel. To find out more about APT’s programs and services, visit [APTonline.org](file:///%5C%5C192.168.200.21%5CCommunication%5CAPT%20Boilerplate%5CAPTonline.org).

**About WQED**

WQED changes lives by creating and sharing outstanding public media that educates, entertains, and inspires. It is the parent company of WQED-TV (PBS); WQED World; WQED Create; WQED Showcase; WQED PBS KIDS Channel; Classical WQED-FM 89.3/Pittsburgh; Classical WQEJ-FM 89.7/Johnstown; the Pittsburgh Concert Channel at WQED-HD2 (89.3-2FM) and online at [www.wqed.org/fm](http://www.wqed.org/fm); local and national television and radio productions; WQED Interactive ([www.wqed.org](http://www.wqed.org)) and iQ: smartmedia, WQED’s Educational initiative ([www.wqed.org/edu](http://www.wqed.org/edu)).

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