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Spyware Can Stop Great Disasters — good

From the op-ed article "The Undercover Parent" (2008), Harlan Coben, the writer, claims that watching over children with spyware is very beneficial to the child and parent. Coben lays out his position by using arguments, counterarguments, experiences, and evidence to convince parents to put spyware on their children's computer. The main purpose of his article was to keep teens safe from the internet by communicating to them about it and to educate teenagers about its dangers. By using an informative tone, Coben addresses parents of teenagers and emphasizes to them that the only way to get teenagers out of harms way, is to monitor them. People can get hurt while using their electronic devices, and even though young adults deserve privacy, too much can be catastrophic. Therefore, to make sure their teenagers are not going on inappropriate websites, doing something illegal, or cyber bullying and/or being cyber bullied, parents must install spyware into their children's electronics.

Going on an inappropriate websites for teens, may not be a big deal to most, but people while on these sites can be hounded by online predators. These predators are horrendous and will stop at nothing to gain the children's trust. Once they have it they will send pornographic pictures to them by email or text, call and text them about meeting up, and even send them gifts. Then "if the victim tries to cut off communications, predators will often convince them that they will tell their parents what they have been doing online and that they viewed pornographic

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pictures, etc., and scare the victim into continuing the relationship" (familysafecomputers.org). Therefore, even if the teen wants to get rid of their online predator, they can not, otherwise they will be blackmailed. If the parents have spyware, they could stop their kid from even going on the website, much less talking to the stranger with an ulterior motive. *good*

Spyware is not just good for blocking and tracking these horrid websites, it is also great for tracking what teenagers are doing and making sure they are not involved in illegal activity. "As teens continue to outsmart their parents online, more and more teens are participating in dangerous and even illegal activities. Surprisingly, 15% of teens have hacked a social network account, 30.7% access pirated movies and music, and 8.7% have hacked someone's email online, while less than 15% of parents are aware of their children are engaging in any of these behaviors" (mcafee.com). This suggests that not only are most kids doing illegal activity, but most parents do not even know. So, when people make the argument that parents should trust their kids; should parents really have that much faith in them? The obvious answer is no, because if almost 50% of teenagers are doing illegal activity on the internet just think about what other information you could find on their phones, like them having intercourse, looking up how to make bombs, and buying and/or selling drugs. If parents had spyware on their kid's electronics, they could go through the teen's emails, text messages, and internet searches making sure they are not going into a criminal life. *good*

Ever heard of the phrase sticks and stones may break may bones but words will never hurt me? That phrase is not true, when a teen is cyber bullied, words can hurt a lot and can cause depression and in extreme cases suicide, especially when your teenagers' peers are anonymously online, typing anything and everything mean to your kid, by targeting their

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greatest insecurities and sometimes they even threatening them. Most parents think that their teenager would never do this to a person, or that their teen would never receive it. Well, here's a wakeup call parents "over half (52 percent) of young people report being cyber bullied" (nobullying.com). This happened to a person close to me, she had an ask.fm on the internet, where people can post comments and questions anonymously, but instead of getting a question she got cyber bullied. This person kept calling her crude names and degrading her, and when she tried to tell them to stop, it just got worse. Eventually she deleted her account but the damage was already done she had these words permanently stuck in her head. All this could have been stopped by the parent. If they had known they could have taken away their devices or deleted and blocked the website, but not one teen told their parent what was going on. This is usually normal, because "more than half of young people surveyed say that they never confide in their parent when cyber bullying happens to them" (nobullying.com). So, when people say that communicating with your child is enough, is it really? Spyware is way more reliable and can stop/block cyber bullying the moment it starts.

Spyware is not only a good idea, it is a marvelous idea. It can tell if a teenager is doing illegal activity, having online predators, and receiving or starting cyber bullying. It also can help parents block sites, and stop them from posting awful things. Parents should use it because otherwise who knows what their teenagers are doing, and how much trouble they are getting into.

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