

Red Flag Apps

Icons that should make you ask questions



Department of State Health Services, PHR1

6302 Iola Avenue

Lubbock, TX 79424

Taiya.jones@dshs.texas.gov

806.783.6481



Texas Department of State
Health Services

October 2017

The following is a list of the most commonly used applications within the app store.

Name of App	Icon	Description & Comments
SnapChat		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows users to send photos and videos which are then “deleted” after viewing • Location features that shares exact location and address • Used to send racy/crude pictures and sexting • Users can screenshot and save photos regardless of “deletion”
Messenger— Facebook		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popular app connected to Facebook’s messaging feature. • Allows users easier access to their messages
Instagram		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows users to share photos and videos publicly and privately. • Connects across platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, and Flickr. • Cyberbullying and vicious comments are common. • There are privacy settings but many users do not update them and share publicly
Facebook		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows users to share updates, photos and videos. • Watch, interact, and create live videos • Play games within the application, share content, and internal messaging • Content is not controlled and can be mature. • Profile creation makes it easier to connect with strangers, phishers, and scammers.
WhatsApp		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses internet connection to message and call. • Frequently used for sexting among teens. • Predators and other strangers can connect to teens with ease and without being traced.

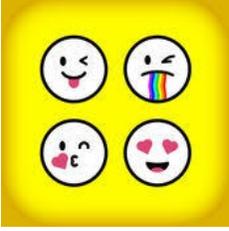
The following is a list of the most commonly used applications within the app store.

Name of App	Icon	Description & Comments
Twitter		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tweets are photos/videos and 140 characters of text. • Pornography and other mature content is frequently found on this site. • Another avenue for strangers to connect with teens anonymously.
Kik		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rated age 17+ but there is no age verification system. • Uses internet connection for messages. • Frequently used for sexting among teens. • Has also been connected to cyberbullying.
Tinder		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rated age 17+ but privacy policy allows registration 13+ (connects to Facebook) • Location-based dating service, mostly anonymous hook-ups among college-aged populations. • Geo-location and anonymity increases the risk of catfishing, sexual harassment, and stalking.
Dropbox		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloud service for photos, documents, videos, and files. • Connects to all of the users devices. • Hacks have shown the dangers of storing unencrypted and/or sensitive information in this app and other cloud services.
Tumblr		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rated age 17+ but there is no age verification. • Access to pornography, violent, and mature content. • Privacy settings are difficult to set up making content public.. • Can glorify self-harm and eating disorders.

The following is a list of the most commonly used applications within the app store.

Name of App	Icon	Description & Comments
Live.ly		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video streaming service, live streams allow access to nearly anyone. • Predators can view victims in an unedited and intimate moment, with little to no incriminating data. • Infrequent use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, cartoon and fantasy violence, profanity, and crude humor.
Yarn—Chat Fiction		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users create stories that can include mature content. • Rated age 17+ • Classified as thrillers, romance, and are created in “text messages”.
Hooked—Chat Stories		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very similar to Yarn except the age restriction is 12+ • Advertises as thrillers and material can become mature/sexual.
mai Social		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users create an avatar and use them to post on social feeds that anyone can see. • Includes messaging features. • Users can also video share with themselves or their avatar.
Wishbone— Compare Anything		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users judge different polls and compare answers with friends. • Users can create polls which can lead to cyberbullying and other forms of peer comparison.
HMU– Get More Friends & Views		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users advertise themselves to create more followers on other social media sites like Instagram. • Users can search by age, gender, location, and interests. • Post photos, text, video, or chats.

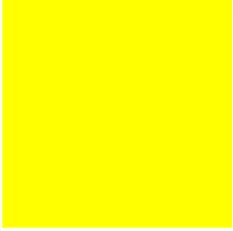
The following is a list of the most commonly used applications within the app store.

Name of App	Icon	Description & Comments
goocha – nice to meet you, my friends		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of this app is to advertise other social media accounts and gain more followers. • Very similar to HMU.
After School		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anonymous messaging and location service. • Connects to the users school and creates school chats. • Location and contact is readily available for predators. • False sense of trust because all users should be classmates.
Reddit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized into “subreddits” that range from baking to pornography. • Mature subreddits only ask if the user is 18+, no confirmation. • Posts are frequently profane, suggestive, and violent.
LinePlay		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users create an avatar and use them to post on social feeds that anyone can see. • Includes messaging features. • Connects with random users.
Amino		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities, chat, forums, and groups. • Users post blogs and polls. • Users can create polls which can lead to cyberbullying and other forms of peer comparison.
ASKfm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users interact in a Q&A format with friends and anonymous users. • Can ask other users questions anonymously, can promote cyberbullying. • Content is mature and can include profanity and drugs.

The following are the most common texting and phone apps.

Texting apps are dangerous for teens as it allows them to anonymously talk to anyone. This can promote cyberbullying and other forms of harassment. Largely used for sexting, increased profanity, and other mature content. It also allows children to connect with strangers and potential predators with little or no incriminating data or means of tracking predators. *Similar to Kik and WhatsApp.

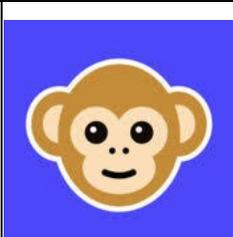
Most apps have a 17+ age rank that is not enforced.

Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon
TextFree & TextFree Voice (calling)		IMO		Telegram	
Yellow— Make friends for SnapChat		GroupMe *group messaging		Line	
Mingle2		MarcoPolo Live		WeChat	
AntiChat		Viber		WePhone	
TextMe!		Text Now		PlayStation Messages	
Sideline		Tango		Chat Now (Omegle)	

The following are the most common texting and phone apps.

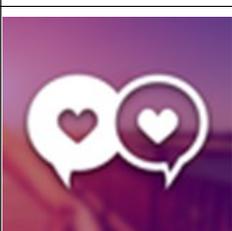
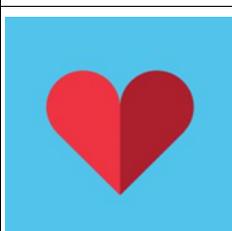
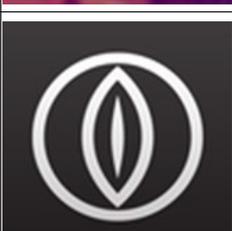
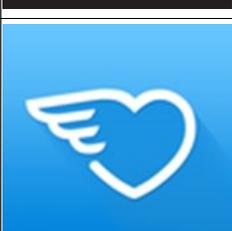
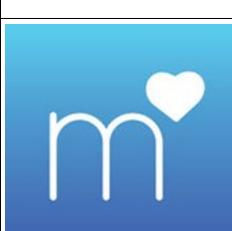
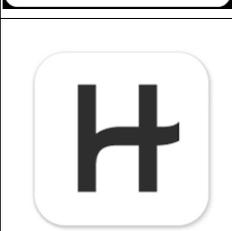
Texting apps are dangerous for teens as it allows them to anonymously talk to anyone. This can promote cyberbullying and other forms of harassment. Largely used for sexting, increased profanity, and other mature content. It also allows children to connect with strangers and potential predators with little or no incriminating data or means of tracking predators. *Similar to Kik and WhatsApp.

Most apps have a 17+ age rank that is not enforced.

Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon
Talkatone		FreeTone		HiTalk	
Discord		Free Calls and Texts by MO+		Dingtone	
KakaoTalk		MOCO		Sarahah	
Hangouts		2nd Line– Second Phone Number Changer App		Monkey *Video chats with strangers	
ooVoo *Video chats		HOLLA– best random video chat		Whisper-Share, Express, Meet	
Chill– Find Chill Friends with Same Interests & Views		Text Burner –Anonymous Texting Private Phone App		Houseparty	

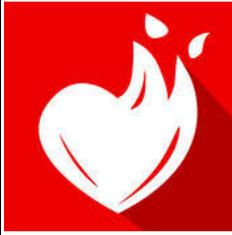
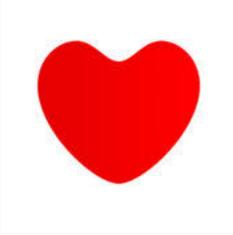
The following apps are considered “Dating” apps

Dating apps match people on similar interests, location, and include “like” features which allows both parties to express interest and then opens private messaging between the two to set up meetings. Sexting and other mature and suggestive themes are used in these messaging platforms. These are dangerous for children and teenagers as they are easily deceived and the applications share personal information and locations. Typically connects to other forms of social media like Facebook. *Similar to Tinder. *All dating apps are rated ages 17+

Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon
Bumble		POF		Grindr	
Hookup Now— Meet Attractive and Secret Dating		MeetMe		KKFriends *Connects to Kik Messenger App	
Hookup Dating		OkCupid		Anonymous Chat Rooms, Dating	
DOWN Dating		Zoosk		Wild: Hook Up, Meet & Dating	
Pure Anonymous		Clover		Her— LGBTQ Dating	
Cupid Dating		Match		Hinge: Dating and Relationships	

The following apps are considered “Dating” apps

Dating apps match people on similar interests, location, and include “like” features which allows both parties to express interest and then opens private messaging between the two to set up meetings. Sexting and other mature and suggestive themes are used in these messaging platforms. These are dangerous for children and teenagers as they are easily deceived and the applications share personal information and locations. Typically connects to other forms of social media like Facebook. *Similar to Tinder. *All dating apps are rated ages 17+

Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon
Dating hub – flirt and meet free singles online app		Fling Dating – Meet New Single, Chat Flirt & Match		One Night Stand– Adult Hook up Tonight	
Klique– Meet New People		Naughty– Hook Up Dating App		The League...	
Feeld– Dating for couples and singles		Ashley Madison: #1 for Affairs		Sudy-Sugar Daddy Dating App	
Meetville– Meet & Chat with Singles. Dating App		Jack’d– Gay Chat & Dating		Tagged	

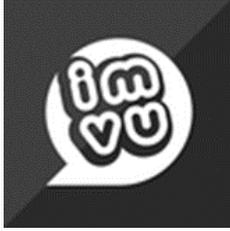
Most dating apps include location services which can tell other users when and where they have come in contact with your teen. This is dangerous as far as stalking and making location easily accessible for predators. Dating apps typically show up in the lifestyle section of the app store but many messaging apps can be used to meet strangers as well. Messaging apps should be treated with the same vigilance as dating apps on teens phones.

Dating apps typically connect to other forms of social media, like Facebook, giving users complete access to photos and other personal information.

These apps are rated ages 17+ but there is little or no maintenance of the restriction. Some apps, like Bumble, allow users to register at 13.

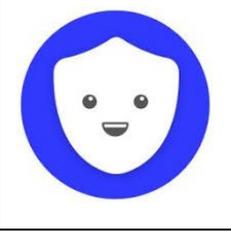
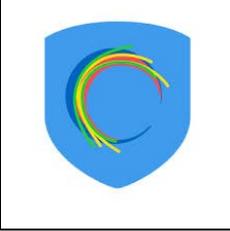
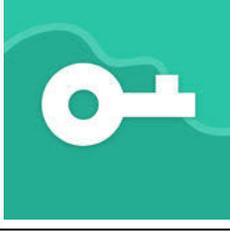
The following are video applications

Video apps allow users to livestream and post staged videos of themselves. Content can be very mature including sexual behavior and drug/alcohol use. These applications are popular among predators as they can view unedited and intimate moments of people with little to no incriminating data. *Similar to Live.ly

Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon
Vine		Safe Uploader for SnapChat		Live.me	
Periscope		YouNow		UChat	
Megastar: Discover Talent		Musical.ly		Twitch	
Hypstar- make and share videos		BIGO LIVE- Live Stream		IMVU *Photo Sharing	

The following apps are considered Proxy or VPN apps

Proxy servers work as a secondary computer which sends a users internet requests through them rather than the users IP. Many teens use these to bypass blocked websites and apps when at school. VPN's add security and privacy for a user by connecting it to a private network. VPN's are used to hide browsing history.

Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon
Best VPN Proxy Betternet		Hotspot Shield VPN & Wifi Proxy		VPN Proxy Master Unlimited vpn	

The following are location applications

Location apps allow users to see who is near them and can record and show locations of *any* user you have passed. Can be used as a tool for predators and stalkers as some apps update locations in real time and some, like Happn, have a timeline that records the exact time and place of each encounter with a user and gives you access to view their profile.

Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon
Happn *also used as a Dating App		Badoo *similar to Happn in location sharing		Meetup	
Skout		Orbit–Who's Nearby?		Find My Family, Friends, Phone	
The Game by Hot or Not				Fake-A-Location *sends a fake 'GPS reading'	

The following are privacy applications

Privacy apps allow users to store photos, videos, and other files, as well as bookmarks and web browsing history in a password protected application. These apps are an indicator that a child or teen is trying to hide mature/inappropriate content. These applications are not as safe as users assume them to be and can be hacked into.

Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon	Name of App	Icon
Private Photo Vault		Keep Safe Private		Secret Photo and Video Calculator	
Don't Touch This		Secret Apps Lite		Photo Lock Vault Calculator+	

Media applications are constantly changing and new applications are created daily. Vigilance is the most important factor in keeping children safe from advantageous apps. For more information about practicing safe social media use, please visit any of these resources.

FamilyEducation.com

TheOneSpy Blog

ModernMom.com

KidminTools.com

Common Sense Media—[Dropbox](https://www.dropbox.com)

Gaggle.net

CarefulParents.com

Recent updates by Samantha Curtis
TTUHSC Department of Public Health
samantha.n.curtis@ttuhsc.edu

