CSNP
CYBERSECURITY NON-PROFIT

Family Photo Sharing Safely

A practical guide for parents to protect your family while sharing precious moments online.

Why Photo Privacy Matters

Digital Footprint

Every shared photo creates a permanent digital record of your child's life. By age 5, the average child has over 1,500 photos online —often without their consent.

Identity Risks

Photos containing personal details like school uniforms, house numbers, or birthday celebrations can be used for identity theft or targeted scams.

Stranger Danger

Public photos can reveal routines, locations, and habits. Predators have used social media to gather information about children and their families.
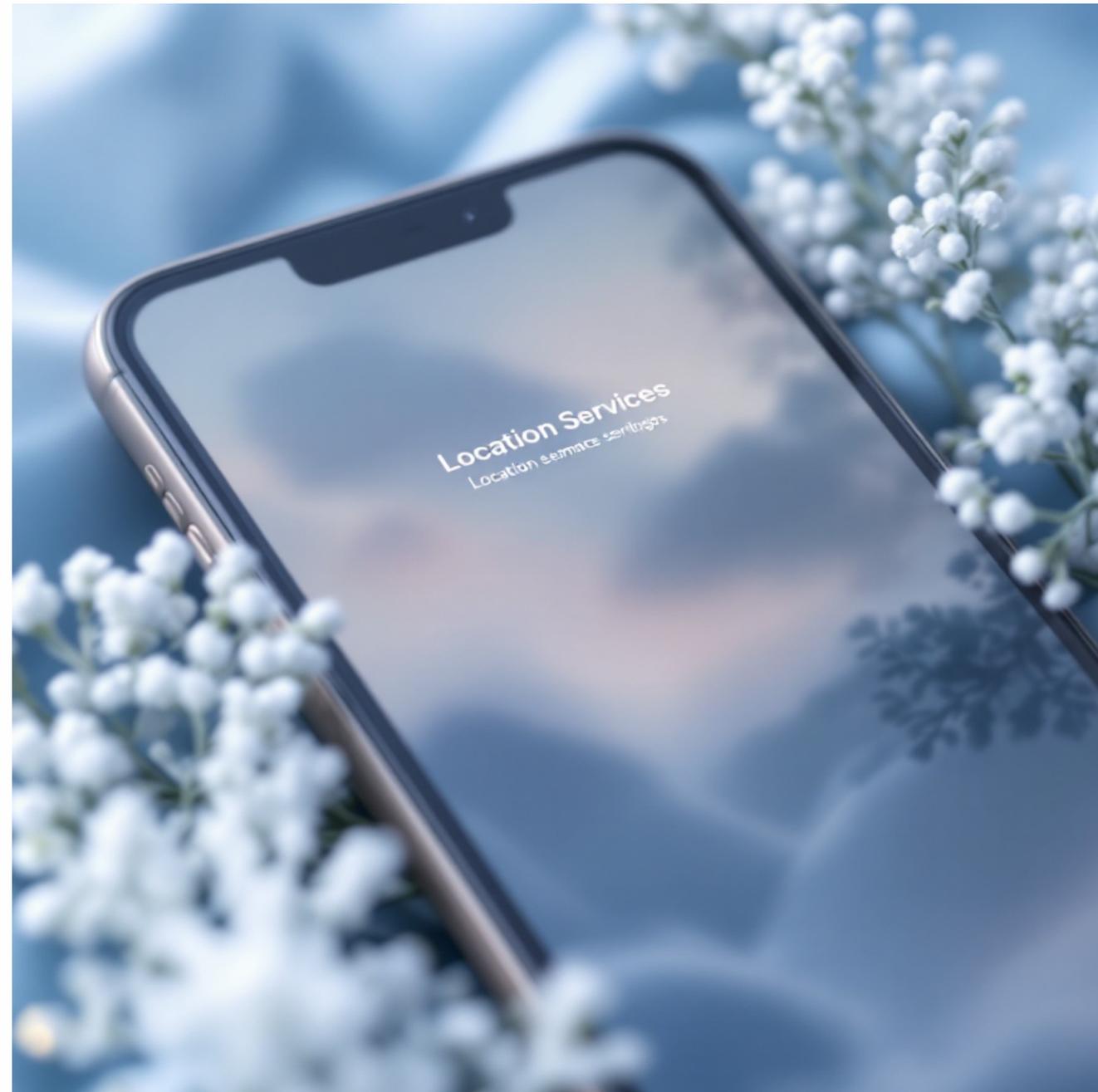
The Hidden Data in Your Photos

What's Lurking in Metadata?

Most smartphone photos automatically embed invisible information that can reveal:

- Exact GPS coordinates of where the photo was taken

- Date and time stamps

- Device information and camera settings

- Sometimes even your name

Quick fix: Turn off location services for your camera app or strip metadata before sharing.

Master Your Privacy Settings

01

Review Platform Privacy

Check Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok settings. Set posts to "Friends Only" or create private groups for family.

02

Limit Tagging Permissions

Disable auto-tagging and require approval before others can tag you or your children in photos.

03

Audit Your Friend List

Remove acquaintances, old coworkers, or anyone you wouldn't show physical photo albums to.

04

Disable Location Sharing

Turn off geotagging for all social media apps. Never post in real-time from locations you frequent.

Better Ways to Share

Private Sharing Apps

Use apps like Tinybeans, FamilyAlbum, or Google Photos with controlled sharing. Only invited family members can view.

Direct Messaging

Share special moments through encrypted messaging apps like Signal or WhatsApp instead of public posts.

Go Old School

Create printed photo books or send physical photos to grandparents. Some memories are worth keeping offline.

Teaching Kids About Photo Privacy

Start conversations early about digital footprints and consent. Here's how to empower your children:

- **Ask Permission First**

  Before posting their photo, ask if they're comfortable with it. Respect their "no."

- **Practice the "Grandma Rule"**

  Would you be comfortable if Grandma saw this? If not, don't post it.

- **Explain Permanence**

  Help them understand that online photos never truly disappear, even if deleted.

- **Model Good Behavior**

  Show them you're thoughtful about what you share. Kids learn by watching.

What NOT to Post

🚫 School Information

Avoid uniforms, school names, buses, or classroom photos that reveal where your child attends school.

🚫 Full Names & Ages

Skip birth dates, ages, or full names in captions. Generic descriptions work just as well.

🚫 Home Locations

Don't show house numbers, street signs, or recognizable landmarks near your home.

🚫 Routine Activities

Avoid posting patterns like "Every Saturday at the park" that reveal predictable schedules.

🚫 Bath/Bedroom Photos

Keep private moments private. No photos in states of undress, even if innocent.

🚫 Emotional Moments

Respect their dignity. Don't post photos during tantrums, potty training, or embarrassing situations.

🗨️ **Remember:** When in doubt, leave it out. Your child's safety and future privacy are worth more than likes.

About Cybersecurity Non-Profit

"Making cybersecurity knowledge accessible to everyone through education, community, and practical resources."

Our Programs

- Business & Non-Profit Security
- Family Cybersecurity
- Kids Safety Education
- Senior Digital Safety
- Women's Security
- Parents & Educators Resources

100% Free Resources

Everything we offer is completely free because everyone deserves to stay safe online.

Visit us: csnp.org

Browse resources: csnp.org/resources