

Guidelines for Engaging Online
Via CanYouReL8.com
Social Networks and Message Boards

Purpose:

Relationship Matters facilitates multi-way communication using social media platforms such as message boards, Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace. Joining the online communities is not a required part of the Relationship Matters program or curriculum; however, they are available to be used by teachers to aid in instruction and discussion for their RM classes.

While these platforms offer great opportunities communication, they also bring with them equally great responsibilities for us to use them safely. The information below outlines our policy for anyone, (teens, students and teachers included) engaging in any CanYouReL8.com online communities.

Teens, Students, and Teachers:

The online communities are intended for teens, students, and teachers.

Teachers and administrators may or may not be a part of the CanYouReL8.com communities. Even though CanYouReL8.com and its online policies are separate entities from your school policies, we cannot ensure that no action will be taken by your teacher or school because of what you post on our sites. To be safe, *follow the same guidelines and behaviors that you would in school*. In the case that your school, teachers, or its administrators take any action against you, we will not be responsible. By using the CanYouReL8.com communities, you agree that you are using these social media sites *at your own risk*.

Be aware that *social media sites* and *message boards* are not private and they are "*public domains*". While our sites are meant for teens, due to the nature of the internet, anyone can join. While we will monitor these sites, CanYouReL8.com is unable to monitor all activity that results from these groups. Members that harass, threaten, or belittle other members will be either warned or permanently banned from our sites. We (Relationship Matters staff, teachers, administrators, etc) will **NEVER** ask you for **ANY PERSONAL information**. **We will never ask you for your phone number or address. If anyone says that they are Relationship Matters staff, teacher or administrators and asks you for this type of information in any of the Relationship Matters communities (through public post or private message), do not interact with the person; tell an adult, teacher, police and contact us at answers@canyourel8.com so that we can take appropriate action.**

Message Board:

The message boards are not intended for use by individuals under the age of 13.

CanYouReL8.com does not control or endorse the content found in these Message Boards and, therefore, disclaims any liability with regard to the content on the Message Boards and any actions resulting from your participation in the Message Boards.

By accessing “CanYouReL8.com” message board and/or forums, you agree to be legally bound by the following terms. If you do not agree to the following terms then do not access and/or use “CanYouReL8.com”. We may change these terms at any time. Your continued usage of “CanYouReL8.com” means that you agree to these terms as they are updated and/or amended.

You agree that “CanYouReL8.com” has the right to remove, edit, move or close any topic at any time.

To ensure your safety, please follow your school guidelines and policies for appropriate interaction with your students. Online communities and forums provide a less formal atmosphere; however, teachers should exercise caution and be careful about sharing personal information with students. Caution should also be taken if a student gives out personal information to you via a social network. Both teachers and students are required to adhere to **message board terms of use.**

Although the administrators and moderators of CanYouReL8.com will attempt to keep objectionable messages off this forum, it is impossible for us to review all messages. All messages express the views of the author, and not CanYouReL8.com, Stark STRONG, Department of Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, PSC, nor will they be held responsible for the content of any message.

MESSAGE BOARDS TERMS OF USE:

Do not use any of the following on any CanYouReL8 online community or message board.

Violation of any of these terms may result in suspension or permanent banning of user

- ⇒Explicit/vulgar/obscene language.
- ⇒Impersonating RM staff, RM teachers or message board moderators.
- ⇒Do not use student’s names or descriptions of students.
- ⇒Do not discuss students or coworkers on the message board.
- ⇒Do not publicly criticize school rules or administration.
- ⇒Do not post images that include teachers or students.
- ⇒Posting or referencing sexually explicit images or other offensive content.
- ⇒Depictions or discussion of gratuitous violence.
- ⇒Material that is meant to embarrass, harass or defame others.
- ⇒Racially or ethnically offensive content.
- ⇒Material that discusses or advocates any illegal activity.

⇒ Individually, identifiable information of a minor (any person under the age of 18), including, without limitation, any of the following: home address or telephone number.

⇒ Pornography in posts or links containing pornographic material.

⇒ Any communication that contains spam (multiple copies in one area or the same communication in multiple areas).

⇒ Soliciting for the exchange of sexually explicit images, or material harmful to minors including but not limited to any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer generated image or picture.

⇒ Material that impedes or otherwise prohibits communication, or disrupts the discussion including words that are offensive to the topic or the Relationship Matters class.

⇒ Soliciting for advertisers or sponsors.

⇒ Offering for sale products or services.

⇒ Posting of sponsorships, ads, and banners.

Message Board Atmosphere:

The purpose of this forum is to provide information, encouragement, advice and support to teens in a safe and friendly environment. **Topics that might be discussed are: relationships, dating violence, sex, sexting, marriage, divorce, pregnancy, jealousy, anger, depression, breaking up, and more.** Topics are meant to support our curriculum. Teachers may be interacting with students who attend their schools and/or classes. *However, the public boards are available to anyone who wants to join, and are not limited to students in your class or school. Do not post anything that would identify yourself or any of your students on a public board.*

Private Message Boards for RM Classes:

Teachers may have a message board for to supplement their Relationship Matter class. These messages boards may be open or private areas, and can be used for discussion, homework, or more. Per teacher request, private boards can be set up by the Relationship Matters staff and will include a password for you and your students. Students who do not have the password will not be able to access the board. The RM staff will also have the password and will moderate all private boards. RM reserves the right to remove, edit, move or close any message or topic.

Username:

We recommend choosing a username that doesn't include your full name. If you are using a private message board for your class, you will want to use your prefix and your last name. If you have any questions or problems with your user name or need help using the message board ask your RM teacher or contact us answers@canyoure18.com

Posted Material:

Once you post content in the online communities, message boards, Ask the SexPERT, or Ask a Question, you grant CanYouRel8.com the right to use, reproduce, modify, distribute, etc. the content. By submitting or posting content on any of our sites, you are representing that you are the owner of such material or have authorization to distribute it. Other users will have access to your posted material and may copy, modify or distribute it

Safety:

Although our primary goal is to engage and educate teens and students online, due to the nature of social media, other people and/or groups may also become a part of the RM online communities. The people who join these groups also do so by their own consent. Relationship Matters or its staff are in no way responsible for them, or what they post online.

⇒ **Be cautious about posting and sharing information.**

⇒ **Don't share personal information like your address or phone number.**

⇒ **Report users and content that violates our guidelines and policies.**

⇒ **Block and report anyone that sends you unwanted or inappropriate communication or images**

By using the becoming a part of any one of the RM online communities (Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Message Board, YouTube) RM cannot guarantee that the site is entirely free of illegal, offensive, or otherwise inappropriate material, or that its members will not encounter inappropriate conduct from other members.

We can and may edit, delete or ban some users from posting comments if they are deemed inappropriate or objectionable, however, some online communities do not allow for removal of fans. If you feel you are being stalked, harassed or bullied, do not interact with the person; tell an adult, teacher, police or report it to the appropriate social network administrator.

Do not post information or images that could be used to identify you or locate you offline, such as your address or telephone number. Report users and content that violate our terms of use guidelines. Block and report anyone that sends you unwanted or inappropriate communication.

Facebook, Twitter and MySpace all have policies that explain how to deal with safety and violation issues.

⇒ **Facebook** <http://www.facebook.com/safety/>

⇒ **MySpace** <http://www1.myspace.com/misc/safetyTips.html>

⇒ **Twitter** <http://help.twitter.com/forums/26257/entries/15794>

Your Privacy:

Messages that are posted on CanYouReL8.com are not private, and messages you post are not confidential. Please use discretion when posting, especially when discussing situations at school, students, and/or parents. It is best not to use names or information that might identify you (unless you have a private class) or anyone involved. *If you provide personal information to other members via the message board or private message system, it is at your own risk.*

Personal information will not be shared with students or anyone else that accesses our sites. However, we reserve the right to reveal your identity in the event of a complaint or legal action arising from any message, submission, or action by you. All actions on the site are indented by an IP address accessible by forum administrators.

Message Board Privacy Policy:

Your information is collected via cookies and what you submit to us. PhpBB software creates cookies, which are downloaded on to your computer's web browser temporary files. The first two cookies just contain a user identifier and an anonymous session identifier, automatically assigned to you. A third cookie will be created once you have browsed topics within "CanYouReL8.com" and is used to store which topics have been read, thereby improving your user experience.

We may also create cookies external to the phpBB software while browsing "CanYouReL8.com". The second way in which we collect your information is by what you submit to us. This can be, and is not limited to: posting as an anonymous user registering on "CanYouReL8.com" and posts submitted by you after registration and while logged in.

Your information for your account at "CanYouReL8.com" is protected by data-protection laws applicable in the country that hosts us. Any information beyond your user name, your password, and your e-mail address required by "CanYouReL8.com" during the registration process is either mandatory or optional, at the discretion of "CanYouReL8.com". In all cases, you have the option of what information in your account is publicly displayed. Furthermore, within your account, you have the option to opt-in or opt-out of automatically generated e-mails from the phpBB software.

Your password is secure. Under no circumstance will anyone affiliated with "CanYouReL8.com" ask you for your password. Should you forget your password for your account, you can use the "I forgot my password" feature provided by the message board software. This process will ask you to submit your user name and your e-mail, and then the software will generate a new password to reclaim your account.

Information Disclosure:

We may disclose your information if we believe that it is reasonably necessary to comply with a law, regulation or legal request; to protect the safety of any person; to address fraud, security or technical issues; or to protect our rights.

Additional Resources for Teachers

⇒ Should Students and Teachers be Online Friends?, Cheri Lucas http://www.education.com/magazine/article/Students_Teachers_Social_Networking/

⇒ A Teachers Guide to Using Facebook, Bernadette Rego <http://www.scribd.com/doc/16957158/Teachers-Guide-to-Using-Facebook-Read-Fullscreen>

⇒ Social Networking Best Practices for Educators, <http://www.willard.k12.mo.us/co/tech/Document/SocialNetworkBestPractices.pdf>