# Safety Issues in Digital Environments: Case Study 1

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| **Case Study 1**Kacie Rene Woody was a typical 13-year-old girl. She was a good student, a member of the school band and liked going online. Kacie met 18-year-old David Fagan in a Christian chatroom for teens. She didn’t doubt his identity because the picture posted in David’s profile was of a brown haired, blue-eyed teenage boy. What Kacie didn’t know was that David Fagan didn’t really exist. She was really talking to 47-year-old David Fuller. He had used a photo of a nephew in his profile. Fuller was an Internet predator who had set his sights on Kacie. She made the fatal mistake of sharing personal information with him. Fuller tracked Kacie from his home in San Diego, California to the small town in Arkansas where she lived. He abducted and then killed her before committing suicide.This is a tragic story and we should all learn something from such a tragedy. Predators will use information obtained from children to gain trust and friendship. When Kacie told Fuller about witnessing her mother’s death in a traffic accident, Fuller told Kacie that he had an aunt that lived in Arkansas who had also been in a traffic accident, was in a coma and was expected to die soon. This is one way he established a bond of trust and friendship. Unless you know someone in person, you don’t really know who they are on the Internet. Fuller portrayed himself as 18 years old and Kacie believed him. Anyone is vulnerable – Kacie’s father was a police officer and she lived in small town, but once she logged onto the World Wide Web, she was no longer just a part of the small community she physically lived in.Kacie made the fatal mistake of giving out personal information. She told Fuller her phone number. Sometimes you can inadvertently give out information that helps someone track you online. |

Case Study extracted from: <http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/missing/i_safety/mediafiles/mshs_v5-7-10-notes.pdf>