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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

16 CFR Part 312

RIN 3084-AB20

Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule Safe Harbor Proposed Self-Regulatory Guidelines; iKeepSafe COPPA Safe Harbor Program Application

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission (FTC or Commission).

ACTION: Notice announcing submission of proposed “safe harbor” guidelines and requesting public comment.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission publishes this notice and request for public comment concerning proposed self-regulatory guidelines submitted by the Internet Keep Safe Coalition (“iKeepSafe”), under the safe harbor provision of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule.

DATES: Written comments must be received by April 21, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may file a comment online or on paper, by following the instructions in the Request for Comment part of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. Write “**iKeepSafe Application for Safe Harbor, Project No. 145402**” on your comment, and file your comment online at <https://ftcpublishcommentworks.com/ftc/ikeepsafeapp> by following the instructions on the web-based form. If you prefer to file your comment on paper, mail or deliver your comment to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, Room H-113 (Annex H), 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristin Cohen, Attorney, (202) 326-2276, Peder Magee, Attorney, (202) 326-3538, or Miry Kim, Attorney, (202) 326-3622, Division of Privacy and Identity Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Section A. Background

On October 20, 1999, the Commission issued its final Rule pursuant to the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*, which became effective on April 21, 2000.¹ On December 19, 2012, the Commission amended the Rule, and these amendments became effective on July 1, 2013.² The Rule requires certain website operators to post privacy policies and provide notice, and to obtain verifiable parental consent, prior to collecting, using, or disclosing personal information from children under the age of 13.³ The Rule contains a “safe harbor” provision enabling industry groups or others to submit to the Commission for approval self-regulatory guidelines that would implement the Rule’s protections.⁴

Pursuant to Section 312.11 of the Rule, iKeepSafe has submitted proposed self-regulatory guidelines to the Commission for approval. The text of the proposed guidelines is available on the Commission's Website, at www.ftc.gov.

Section B. Questions on the Proposed Guidelines

The Commission is seeking comment on various aspects of the proposed guidelines, and is particularly interested in receiving comment on the questions that follow. These questions are designed to assist the public and should not be construed as a limitation on the issues on which

¹ 64 FR 59888 (1999).

² 78 FR 3972 (2013).

³ 16 CFR part 312.

⁴ *See* 16 CFR 312.11; 78 FR at 3995-96, 4012-13.

public comment may be submitted. Each response should cite the number and subsection of the question being answered. For all comments submitted, please provide any relevant data, statistics, or any other evidence, upon which those comments are based.

1. Please provide comments on any or all of the provisions in the proposed guidelines. For each provision commented on please describe (a) the impact of the provision(s), including benefits and costs, if any, and (b) what alternatives, if any, iKeepSafe should consider, as well as the costs and benefits of those alternatives.
2. Do the provisions of the proposed guidelines governing operators' information practices provide "the same or greater protections for children" as those contained in Sections 312.2 - 312.10 of the Rule?⁵ Where possible, please cite the relevant sections of both the Rule and the proposed guidelines.
3. Are the mechanisms used to assess operators' compliance with the proposed guidelines effective?⁶ If not, please describe (a) whether and how the assessment mechanisms could be modified to satisfy the Rule's requirements, and (b) the costs and benefits of those modifications.
4. Are the incentives for operators' compliance with the proposed guidelines effective?⁷ If not, please describe (a) whether and how the incentives could be modified to satisfy the Rule's requirements, and (b) the costs and benefits of those modifications.
5. Do the proposed guidelines provide adequate means for resolving consumer complaints? If not, please describe (a) whether and how the dispute resolution process could be modified to resolve consumer complaints adequately, and (b) the costs and benefits of those modifications.

⁵ See 16 CFR 312.11(b)(1); 78 FR at 4013.

⁶ See 16 CFR 312.11(b)(2); 78 FR at 4013.

⁷ See 16 CFR 312.11(b)(3); 78 FR at 4013.

6. Does iKeepSafe have the capability to run an effective safe harbor program? Specifically, can iKeepSafe effectively conduct initial and continuing assessments of operators' fitness for membership in its program in light of its business model and technological capabilities and mechanisms?⁸ If not, please describe (a) whether and how the program could be modified to ensure that iKeepSafe could run it effectively, and (b) the costs and benefits of those modifications.

Section C. Invitation to Comment

You can file a comment online or on paper. For the Commission to consider your comment, we must receive it on or before April 21, 2014. Write **“iKeepSafe Application for Safe Harbor, Project No. 145402”** on your comment. Your comment – including your name and your state – will be placed on the public record of this proceeding, including, to the extent practicable, on the public Commission Website, at <http://www.ftc.gov/os/publiccomments.shtm>. As a matter of discretion, the Commission tries to remove individuals' home contact information from comments before placing them on the Commission Website.

Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for making sure that your comment does not include any sensitive personal information, like anyone's Social Security number, date of birth, driver's license number or other state identification number or foreign country equivalent, passport number, financial account number, or credit or debit card number. You are also solely responsible for making sure that your comment does not include any sensitive health information, like medical records or other individually identifiable health information. In addition, do not include any “[t]rade secret or any commercial or financial information which is . . . privileged or confidential,” as provided in Section 6(f) of the FTC Act,

⁸ See 16 CFR 312.11(c)(1).

15 U.S.C. 46(f), and FTC Rule 4.10(a)(2), 16 CFR 4.10(a)(2). In particular, do not include competitively sensitive information such as costs, sales statistics, inventories, formulas, patterns, devices, manufacturing processes, or customer names. If you want the Commission to give your comment confidential treatment, you must file it in paper form, with a request for confidential treatment, and follow the procedure explained in FTC Rule 4.9(c), 16 CFR 4.9(c).⁹ Your comment will be kept confidential only if the FTC General Counsel, in his or her sole discretion, grants your request in accordance with the law and the public interest.

Postal mail addressed to the Commission is subject to delay due to heightened security screening. As a result, we encourage you to submit your comments online. To make sure that the Commission considers your online comment, you must file it at <https://ftcpublic.commentworks.com/ftc/ikeepSAFEapp>, by following the instructions on the web-based form. If this Notice appears at <http://www.regulations.gov#!/home>, you also may file a comment through that website.

If you file your comment on paper, write **“iKeepSafe Application for Safe Harbor, Project No. 145402”** on your comment and on the envelope, and mail or deliver it to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, Room H-113 (Annex H), 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. If possible, submit your paper comment to the Commission by courier or overnight service.

Visit the Commission Website at <http://www.ftc.gov> to read this Notice and the news release describing it. The FTC Act and other laws that the Commission administers permit the collection of public comments to consider and use in this proceeding as appropriate. The

⁹ In particular, the written request for confidential treatment that accompanies the comment must include the factual and legal basis for the request, and must identify the specific portions of the comment to be withheld from the public record. *See* FTC Rule 4.9(c), 16 CFR 4.9(c).

Commission will consider all timely and responsive public comments that it receives on or before April 21, 2014. You can find more information, including routine uses permitted by the Privacy Act, in the Commission's privacy policy, at <http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/privacy.htm>.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

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