



News at 9

February 23, 2008
Springfield, MO Market

The Importance of Online Safety

21:20:03.41: [...] "If you think about it, you're not actually interacting with a person. It could be anybody out there," WiredSafety.org Executive Parry Aftab says. You can shop safely for deals, services or love online... IF you protect yourself.

You have to look at the person, evaluate them and get letters of reference that you have checked out. Not just through an email. Babysitters on Sittercity.com, for example, list references on their **Sittercity** page and you can pay a little extra for background checks to be extra cautious.

Though Craigslist says the incidence of violent crime is extremely low among its users, the site offer tips for personal safety.

Personal safety tips:

- Don't go alone
- Meet in public
- Tell a friend
- Take your cell phone

When meeting someone:

- Try not to go alone
- Insist on meeting in a public place
- Tell a friend or family member where you're going
- Take your cell phone

"Bottom line is that you can't park your common sense at your computer monitor. You need to recognize that the person who says they're wonderful for you may or may not be," Aftab says. Protect yourself with these safety tips and you may avoid a world of trouble.