



# Franklin Borough Police Department

## Sussex County, N.J.

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Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

I am writing to make you aware of an online game students might be talking about called the "*Momo Challenge*."

This game, found on Facebook and WhatsApp, features a disturbing avatar which asks viewers to perform specific tasks and submit photos as proof of completion.

According to an article from USA Today, "The person or people masquerading as the character encourage video viewers to contact them via a WhatsApp number. Then they, as 'Momo,' ask people to complete challenges, some of which involve self-harm or suicide, according to international reports."

Although the article notes that the "Momo Challenge" might be a hoax, conversations have been circulating among students in several school districts, so I wanted to make you aware in the event you wanted to discuss this at home with your children, or use this as an opportunity to continue reinforcing the importance of online safety with them.

The Franklin Borough Police Department is encouraging parents to supervise the games your children play and be extremely mindful of the videos they are watching on YouTube. Ensure that the devices they have access to are restricted to age-appropriate content.

The Franklin Borough Police Department is also encouraging parents to confirm that your child is not feeling pressured to either follow the orders of ANY app via 'challenges' or peer pressure in chat rooms and the like. Also, children should know not to give out personal information to ANYONE. Please set some time aside to also reinforce that no one has the right to tell them or make them do ANYTHING they don't want to do.

Try and be vigilant and monitor as much of your child's internet time as you can. Talk to your kids about how they use their computers and smartphones and ask about any concerns they might have. Feel free to use the Franklin Borough Police Department as a resource. We are available to help support you in answering tough questions.

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