

## **Social Media Security – Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: I am not on Facebook but would like to join one of these groups**

CLAPA's online support groups were originally created as forums hosted on our main website, but as Facebook became more popular and the forums started to be used less and less, we decided to scrap the forums and instead focus on growing the presence we already had on Facebook. While this unfortunately excludes some people, we felt it was important for us to grow and change in line with what our members wanted, and since then our largest Facebook group has grown to over 4,000 members.

If you want to join one of these groups, we would recommend that you create a Facebook profile specifically for this purpose, keeping in mind that:

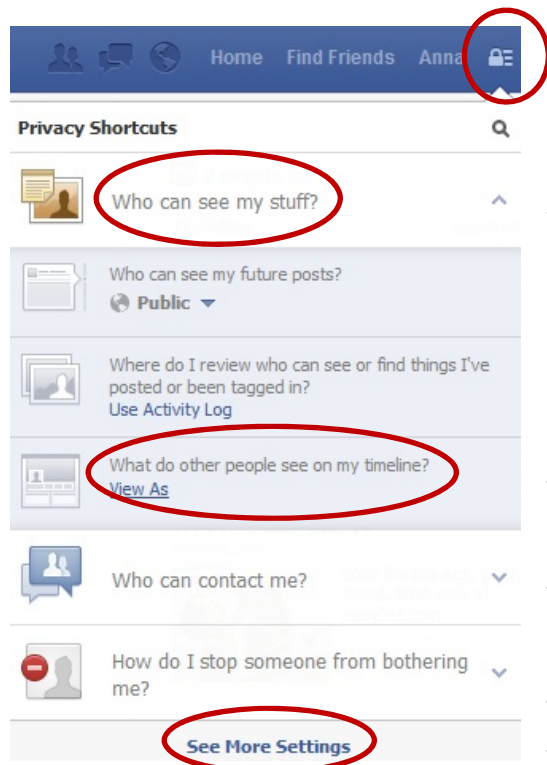
- It's quick and very easy – Facebook's homepage can walk you through it in minutes.
- You do not have to use your real full name. Some people use their middle names instead or pick a random word as their surname to protect their privacy.
- You do not have to post photos of yourself or anyone you know.
- You can use the security settings to make sure that no one you know in your personal life can find you.
- You can easily turn off or block email notifications, as well as notifications within Facebook from certain people or applications (such as games).

### **BUT:**

- Facebook is still a public social media site. You are wholly responsible for the content and information you post, as well as your own safety online. Please familiarise yourself with Facebook's security settings to ensure you are fully aware of what private information you are making available to other people.
- Facebook has had security leaks and malfunctions in the past which have led to privacy breaches such as members' entire private message history being posted on their profiles, private photos being distributed, etc. While this is extremely unlikely, there is ALWAYS a risk with putting anything personal on the internet – know what these risks are before you do it.

### **Q: If I join a group, will others be able to see my posts?**

It depends. Our groups are all set to 'Closed' or 'Private', so people will NOT be able to see your posts or comments in the group unless they are ALSO in the group. The parents' and adults' groups are 'Closed' so that other people can still find them. The under-18s group is 'Private' so that members must be invited.



You must familiarise yourself with your security settings to make sure your posts stay private.

Photos you post in the group may appear in 'Wall Photos' albums and be visible to your friends or even friends of friends if you do not secure your profile.

### How do I stay secure?

Click the padlock icon in the top right of your Facebook profile, and then 'See More Settings' to check out your security settings. You can edit these however you like.

You can also preview what your profile looks like to other people using the padlock icon.

This way you can see exactly what members of the public, friends of friends, and even

particular *people* can see on your profile, helping you to make sure your information stays secure.

### In general, just remember these three rules:

1. You are responsible for your own safety and wellbeing on the internet.
2. Privacy policies change all the time – make sure you're regularly checking your security settings to keep up.
3. Don't post anything on social media that might seriously hurt you if it was shared or leaked. You never know what might happen!

For more information on staying safe online, check out [Safer Internet](#).