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FBI, Merchants Information Solutions Team to Protect Kids from ID Theft, Cyber Dangers

Merchants-Kids ID Safety & Security (M-KIDSS) Program Debuts in Front of 800 Children in Paradise Valley Schools (AZ) Advising Kids on Cyber Predators, ID Thieves Using Info Kids Offer Online, Phones

Credentialed Media Invited; Broadcast-Quality Footage Will Be Provided To Television Media

WHAT: The FBI and Merchants Information Solutions have teamed up to launch in front of 800 children, **M-KIDSS**, a first-ever national program to school-age children about the harsh dangers of cyber predators and giving out information online.

Every day nearly 1,100 children are ID theft victims, according to a 2010 FTC report. This staggering number represents children who can fall prey to predators who stalk children for sex and other heinous crimes and to acquire ID information from kids to commit fraud and other crimes.

The Merchants Kids ID Safety & Security program (**M-KIDSS**) launch presentation will be videotaped and posted online at mkidss.com for free viewing after the live presentation.

WHEN: Live Event Credentialed Media Invited

Wednesday, November 17, 2010, 9:00-9:45 a.m. Phoenix time

WHERE: Explorer Middle School

22401 North 40th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85050, (480) 419-5600

WHO: FBI Cyber Supervisory Special Agent John Iannarelli and Merchants VP and ID Theft Practice Leader Mark Pribish, recognized as a national expert on ID Theft will conduct back-to-back presentations.

WHY: Children are the latest wave of targets by cyber predators and ID thieves because parents and kids often lack awareness of the dangers. The number of children who are victims is growing at an alarming rate. Yet little-to-no education is provided to children about protecting personal information and the predatory criminals who scour for that information.

“Merchants deals with Cyber dangers and ID Theft matters every day as an industry leader in enterprise ID Theft restoration, protection, prevention and background screening. When we became aware of the epidemic problem of children unwittingly giving out information online and via their phones with sexual predators and ID thieves lurking to exploit them, we knew we had to take action,” said Russ Johnson, CEO Merchants.

“PV Schools are known for being cutting-edge in technology resources and instruction, and we’re happy to bring the M-KIDSS Program to our students,” said Dr. James P. Lee, district superintendent. “Along with teaching 21st Century technology skills, we’re teaching our students safe and responsible use.”

About Merchants information Solutions

Merchants Information Solutions, the exclusive provider of the Merchants Pre-employment Integrity Test which is proven to reduce worker’ compensation loss rates an average of 60%, is a national leader in background screening for employers and residential communities as well as a leader in ID Theft Restoration Affinity programs. Honored to have as company national spokespersons Jerry Colangelo and Harvey Mackay, Merchants was founded nearly a century ago and is dedicated to delivering world-class identity theft and background screening solutions. Merchants is the only NATIONAL SINGLE SOURCE PROVIDER of all recognized background screening tools and services for employers and multi-housing communities. www.merchantsinfo.com