

From the Desk of Josue Sierra, Director of Communications

One of the blessings (and humbling experiences) of parenting is realizing just how quickly your children can surpass you in certain areas.

My wife and I homeschool our five children, and from a very young age, our oldest son showed a deep interest in mathematics, robotics, and software development. By the time he was 16, he was upgrading his personal computer with the Linux operating system and creating his own ad-blocking filter for our home network. Don't ask me to explain what all that entailed, because I'm not 100% sure I can.

I'll admit, as a father, there was part of me that felt proud watching his programming and hardware skills develop so rapidly! But it also created unique challenges in our digital age.

Suddenly, my son understood certain areas of technology far better than I did. Our home filtering software only worked on Microsoft operating systems, which meant many of the digital safeguards we originally relied upon no longer worked the same way. That realization forced my wife and me to think differently about what it really means to guide and protect children in a digital world. **We learned quickly that technology solutions alone are never enough.**

So, we had to get creative and intentional. One of the first things we focused on was physical transparency in the home. We became much more deliberate about where computers were located and how devices were used. Open visibility and placement of screens matter.

But even more important was building relational trust and conversational vulnerability skills.

That meant having honest conversations about internet pornography, temptation, online dangers, and God's desire for purity in heart and mind. It meant trying to create a home environment where our children knew they could talk openly about what they encountered online without fear or shame.

We also learned the wisdom of delaying certain technology as long as reasonably possible.

Our family strongly prefers shared devices over personal ones, especially during younger years. In fact, our now 18-year-old son only recently received his first smartphone as he prepares to leave for college. Even then, together we selected a device that allows filtering and monitoring software to be installed—with his full knowledge and shared commitment to accountability and wise digital habits.

What I've learned over the years is this: Raising children in today's digital world requires far more than simply keeping up with the latest app or device.

It requires intentional parenting.

In many ways, our family's experience lines up closely with what the organization "Protect Young Eyes" calls the "5 Habits of a Tech-Ready Home":

1. Model the right behaviors
2. Pursue authentic connections and relationships
3. Encourage work, creativity, and non-tech hobbies
4. Delay addictive technology when possible
5. Diligently prevent harm through early conversations and wise boundaries

The truth is, the digital world is changing rapidly. Artificial intelligence, social media, online exploitation, addictive algorithms, and AI companions are challenges that previous generations of parents never had to navigate. **And many parents feel overwhelmed trying to keep up.**

That's why PA Family Institute is excited to partner with Protect Young Eyes for a practical and encouraging [FREE webinar next month](#):



Protect Young Eyes: Digital Discernment

A Webinar on Raising Tech-Ready Kids in the AI Age

Tuesday, June 16th at 7 pm | pafamily.org/protectyoungeyes

Digital Discernment: Raising Tech-Ready Kids in an AI Age | [Register now.](#)

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

7:00 PM ET

Online Webinar

This timely conversation will feature digital safety expert Dan Armstrong from Protect Young Eyes, moderated by PA Family Institute Policy Analyst Alexis Sneller.

During the free webinar, families will learn:

- Why your router may be one of the most important parenting tools in your home
- What works even better than parental controls alone
- How to recognize and guard against the “Toxic Trio” threatening many children online
- Why teens are increasingly turning to AI companions and what parents need to know
- Practical ways to build healthier digital habits and stronger protections at home

[Click Here to Register](#)

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, pastor, educator, or simply concerned about the next generation, I believe [this conversation will encourage and equip you.](#)

At PA Family Institute, we want to continue providing practical resources that help families pursue wisdom, intentional parenting, and healthy homes in a rapidly changing culture.

[Join us for this important conversation.](#)

For Faith, Family, and Freedom,



Josue Sierra
Director of Communications
Pennsylvania Family Institute

P.S. This webinar is designed to give families practical wisdom, helpful tools, and greater confidence as they navigate technology, social media, AI, and online safety with their children. If you know someone who would benefit from this conversation, please consider forwarding this email and inviting them to join us. [And don't forget to register to save your spot.](#)

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