

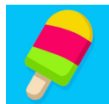


# PARENT ADVICE

## ONLINE SAFETY

### Parent Tips

Age restrictions on apps are only valid when parents have set up Family Sharing or Family Link accounts for their children, and even then kids know how to get around them (for example, some apps are available via an internet browser where age verification is just a click of a button, and not via their Apple or Google Play account). These age restrictions are determined by the app developer. Apps that have 17+ age restrictions still have the ability to be marketed to and made appealing for kids and teens, who will spend a lot of time and energy in gaining access to the “forbidden” apps.



- UNSAFE
- CAUTION
- SAFE

### ZENLY

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>PROS</b> | <b>CONS</b>   |
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Real - time location sharing</li> <li> Age restrictions easy to bypass</li> <li> Sexual themes</li> </ul> |

#### ABOUT:

‘Zenly’ is a real-time location sharing app, marketed for “best friends”. Chats, recording the places you go, and building a diary profile are some of its features.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS:

After a while, ‘Zenly’ will start to recommend friends, locations and things, even identifying user’s home and workplace on a map, and will then broadcast this information to people who are interested in the user; people that have approved to follow their activity.

Parents have expressed concern about the amount of access the app has, as an example the fact that it will read user’s battery status is indicative of how far it reaches in. Another concern is the emoji’s (some of which have inappropriate sounds omitted when chosen).

‘Zenly’ will also study user’s communications and habits between friends, which has major privacy issues. The app developers are studying movement patterns, statistical studies, movements over time (It uses the example of measuring user’s commute to work so “friends can know how long it will take before you get home and when you’re ready to party on a Friday evening”).

The most alarming feature is user’s real time location being available to anyone the user allows (younger users will often want more “friends” and may allow strangers to view their information).



- UNSAFE
- CAUTION
- SAFE

### CHITTER

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>PROS</b> | <b>CONS</b>  |
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Anonymous</li> <li> In-app purchases</li> <li> Sexual content</li> </ul> |

#### ABOUT:

An anonymous chat function app that lets users start chatting without any login or sign up.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS:

As with the many anonymous chat apps Perimeter Guardian has previously reviewed, the risks of this app are no different.

Parents are concerned about the lack of rigor in the sign up or login, simply download the app, answer the question of gender and which gender the user would like to chat with, and users are able to start chatting anonymously immediately. Most chat requests that are initiated begin with a sexual nature.

Of course, with these type of apps, vulnerable children and teenagers may have (at the very least), their self-esteem tested and, at the worst, bullied and harassed.

For more information and helpful parent tips regarding your child’s tech use, visit [www.perimeterguardian.com.au/insights](http://www.perimeterguardian.com.au/insights)

