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Web-based Service Protects Babysitters

Chagrin Falls, Ohio - The Sitter Cafe, an established innovator in the growing **ONLINE SITTER SEARCH** industry, announced today that every subscriber to its Internet search service is **ID VERIFIED** through a state-of-the-art process that helps protect the website and its registered baby sitters from abuse. SitterCafe.com is the **SAFEST NATIONWIDE WEBSITE FOR NEIGHBORHOOD BABYSITTERS**.

“We were determined to find a way of verifying a subscriber’s identity without requiring them to submit their Social Security number over the Internet,” says Sitter Cafe founder and executive director Michael Gerard. “Even on a secure website, clients are reluctant to provide that information. With our system, they don’t have to.” The Sitter Cafe uses publicly available information when asking subscribers to complete the online “ID Verify” process, which includes questions only they could answer. The multi-step process is explained in detail, with illustrative examples, on The Sitter Cafe’s FAQ pages at www.SitterCafe.com.

At sittercafe.com “there are many tools to help parents complete uncomplicated, inexpensive background checks and prepare a safe environment for the sitter and their children,” says Gerard. The problem, he adds, is that “no one was doing anything to protect the sitters, many of whom are teenagers -- kids age 13 and older who have traditionally worked as babysitters in their own neighborhoods. The Sitter Cafe is taking the industry in a new direction, making it safer for everyone.”

The SitterCafe.com's unique security features go further than any other website to help keep sitters safe. Profiles of sitters under age 16 are returned only to subscribers living nearby, and The Sitter Cafe notifies the parents of every sitter under the age of 16 that their child has registered as a babysitter on the website.

“We expect parents, especially of younger sitters, to monitor their teen’s activity, both on our website and in their jobs,” says Gerard.

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Communication between clients and sitters at The Sitter Cafe is the safest and most secure available. No one may register anonymously on the website, but all personally identifiable information is hidden from view. All messaging takes place anonymously until the parties involved decide to exchange email addresses, phone numbers, or last names.

Parents and sitters registered on SitterCafe.com can set their own communications preferences to select what, if any, of their personal information is made available to registered subscribers. Sitters and parents can choose to display their home, work, or mobile telephone numbers, IM screen-names -- or keep all of that information hidden, as in the default account setup.

Guests at SitterCafe.com can enter their zip code to see how many sitters are registered near their home and then review profiles of the sitters available. Sitters always register and use the site without charge. Parents with a paid subscription may choose to contact individual sitters, and compose a 'help wanted' ad that is emailed to all sitters within 20 miles.

Established in 2004, The Sitter Cafe is a member of the Better Business Bureau Online Reliability Program, Sites for Parents, Family Friendly Sites and The International Nanny Association (INA). A \$24.95 subscription provides parents the ability contact sitters immediately and includes ID Verification and 30 days' access to all of the website features, including unlimited ad posting. Subscriptions renewals are just \$1 per week, paid quarterly, and may be cancelled online at the website at any time.

For additional information visit www.sittercafe.com.

RELATED INFORMATION:

HOW IT WORKS: https://www.sittercafe.com/hiw_parents.asp

ID VERIFICATION: https://www.sittercafe.com/31p_faq.asp

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