

## Homeschool-Life.com™ Security Guidelines

Homeschool-Life.com™ uses several layers of security to ensure that your homeschool group web site and family information remains secure.

### Security Certificate - SSL

Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) technology secures your Web site by encrypting information and providing authentication. An **SSL Certificate** consists of a public key and a private key. The public key is used to encrypt information and the private key is used to decipher it. When a browser points to a secured domain, a secure sockets layer handshake authenticates the server and the client and establishes an encryption method and a unique session key. They can begin a secure session that guarantees message privacy and message integrity.



Homeschool-Life.com™ use *thawte* SSL Certificates to offer secure communications by encrypting all data to and from the site. The *thawte* **Trusted Site Seal** is a visible, real-time assurance of trust letting your Website visitors know in an instant that your site is protected by one of the most trusted digital certificate providers on the Web. *thawte* is owned by VeriSign, Inc.

### Value of Authentication

**Authentication + Encryption + Certification Authority = Trust**

#### Site Login

Each time you access your group web site, you will be challenged with a login and a password, which protects that login. The login and password screen use a typical HTML form to process the username and password. Homeschool-Life.com™ takes this one step further and combines this with ColdFusion session management to log you securely into your web site. ColdFusion advanced security functionality integrates a robust tool set to build secure Web applications.

Please be assured that we have taken careful precaution to protect your group web site and its information. In addition to ColdFusion security, your username and password are stored on secured Mysql servers hosted by a very trusted and professional ISP (Internet Service Provider). Beyond this, our ISP has installed secure firewalls to protect the Homeschool-Life.com™ data and your group web site. They have a team of professionals whose primary job responsibilities include data security. To date, our ISP's Internet security has never been compromised.

#### Trusted Developers

Homeschool-Life.com™ code was developed by seasoned, trusted professionals. We chose a group of Christian men who display integrity in their work ethic. They have programmed the code in such a way to ensure a secure web environment.

#### Family Approval

Before you login to your group site, Homeschool-Life.com™ has built in a security measure that only allows group administrators to approve who joins their group web site. This gives each group the control over who joins and views their website.

#### User Login and Password

Each family determines their own login (username) and password. Only the family and the site administrator have access to this login and password. Each family can change their login and password as frequently as they desire. This adds another level of security and gives control to each family over their personal login and password.

#### Cookies

Cookies are used on Homeschool-Life.com™ to keep track of the session management between the web server and your internet browser. You must have cookies enabled in your browser in order to login. You can be assured that absolutely no personal information is being stored in the cookies. We only store unique session management id numbers in the cookies so that the Homeschool-life.com application knows which session thread to stay connected with.