

Cyberbullying

Using the internet or other digital communication technology to send harassing, humiliating, or harmful material.



A bully can send harmful messages through emails, chat rooms, instant-messaging, cell phone text, blogging, and web sites or they can post humiliating pictures of their victims.



In some cases, a bully may obtain a victim's account information or set up a fake account and pretend to be that person online. The bully will then use the victim's account to send private information or harassing messages to others.



Cyberbullying is harmful because the victim cannot escape it. Messages can be sent to the victim's home computer, laptop and cell phone.



Cyberbullying has been deemed the "coward's" way of bullying because a bully can hide behind the anonymity of the internet and does not have to face their victim and see the effects of their actions.

Why are they Bullies?

- ◆ Lack of supervision.
- ◆ Kids, especially, do not think before responding.
- ◆ Feeling of anonymity.
- ◆ Think it's funny – you cannot see the effects a bully has while hiding behind a screen.
- ◆ Vengeful Angel: a friend of a bullying victim goes online and bullies the bully.
- ◆ Bullying is more about power than conflict.

What to Do:

- ◆ Do not open or read messages from cyberbullies.
- ◆ Block messages from a bully using blocking features in email programs, chats and instant messengers.
- ◆ Encourage children to tell an adult.
- ◆ Report the cyberbullying - the internet service provider can often block a cyber bully and schools have procedures to handle bullying.

- ◆ 75% of peer interventions are successful in stopping bullying. Kids care about what their peers think and if they do not get support for their actions, they will stop.
- ◆ Do not chat while angry, it only encourages the bully.
- ◆ Save the evidence by printing out the emails or chat communications.
- ◆ Report the cyberbully if they threaten you.
- ◆ Do not give out your password and keep your personal information private.
- ◆ Remember, the internet is public and anyone can see your pictures and text.
- ◆ For more information and resources on cyberbullying go to: www.ebully411.com

Why Kids do not Report Bullying:

- ◆ They do not want to be blamed.
- ◆ They do not want their technology taken away.
- ◆ They are worried they will not be taken seriously.

- ◆ They are afraid they will have to face the bully. Kids who are victims of bullying generally do NOT want to face the bully, even if the bully is made to apologize for their actions. Ask what the victim feels comfortable with.

Resources:

- Internet Crimes Against Children
 - www.illinoisicac.org
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
 - www.ncmec.org
- Netsmartz
 - www.netsmartz.org
- Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use
 - www.cyberbully.org/
- Cyberbullying.us
 - www.cyberbullying.us/
- Wired Kids, Inc.
 - www.stopcyberbullying.org/
- National Crime Prevention Council
 - www.ncpc.org/cyberbullying

Geneva Police Department

20 Police Plaza
Geneva, Illinois 60134
Phone: 630-232-4736
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<http://www.geneva.il.us/index.aspx?nid=213>

Detective Sullivan
Detective Duncan



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