Cyber-Harassment

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What is Cyber-Harassment Under NJ Law?

A person commits cyber-harassment much the same as a traditional harassment scenario, which involves a communication with a purpose to harass another, either through physical threat to inflict injury or commit a crime against the person or by conveying lewd indecent or obscene material with such a purpose as to emotionally harm another.

N.J.S.A 2C:33-4.1 Cyber-harassment

a. A person commits the crime of cyber-harassment if, while making communication in an online capacity via any electronic device or through a social networking site and with the purpose to harass another, the person:

(1)threatens to inflict injury or physical harm to any person or the property of any person

(2) knowingly sends, posts, comments, requests, suggests or proposes any lewd, indecent or obscene material to or about a person with the intent to emotionally harm a reasonable person or place a reasonable person in fear of physical or emotional harm to his person; or

(3) threatens to commit any crime against the person or the person's property

Cyber-harassment is a crime of the fourth degree, unless the person is 21 years of age or older at the time of the offense and impersonates a minor for the purpose of cyber-harassing a minor, in which case it is a crime of the third degree.

If a minor under the age of 16 is adjudicated delinquent for cyber-harassment, the court may order as a condition of the sentence that the minor, accompanied by a parent or guardian, complete, in a satisfactory manner, training programs on cyber-harassment.

BULLYING

Is when someone *repeatedly* and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending him or her self

THREE COMPONENTS OF BULLYING

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Repeated

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Intentional

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Repeated

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Power Imbalance

TRADITIONAL BULLYING

BULLYING TODAY

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Bystanders- Different for cyber-bullying, don't witness actual face to face confrontation

WARNING SIGNS YOUR CHILD MAY BE BEING BULLIED

- Avoiding or fear of going to school

- Sudden failing grades

- Frequent health complaints- headaches stomach aches

- Withdrawing or losing interest in activities with friends

- Feeling, sad, moody, anxious, depressed, withdrawn, helpless

- Unexplained injuries

- Damaged or missing clothing or items

- Losing items of value- iPod, money or jewelry

- Trouble sleeping

- Changes in eating habits

- Significant mood changes after using the computer

What can parents do?

Talk with your child

There have been a lot of news stories about people being bullied, do you know people dealing with this?

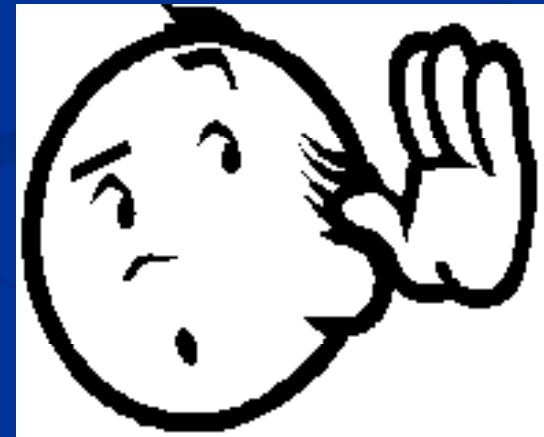Have you ever had problems with people on the internet?

Has anyone ever bothered or threatened you?

Do you know kids who are picked on in school?

How can I help make it stop, without embarrassing you?

Your child will not always want to talk…so observe and listen

- Offer to drive your child and friends to events
- Observe their interactions with friends
- Volunteer at the school
- Attend school events
- Chaperone field trips
- Pay attention to changes

Empathize with your child and help them understand that bullying is wrong and that it is not their fault

Document bullying incidents

Print out copies of inappropriate emails, Facebook posts and online communications

Be a role model

Help your child develop strategies and skills for handling bullying

Teach Empathy

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- How do you think someone would feel reading a text or email you sent?
- Why do you think students text or write mean things to each other?
- What would your parents, grandparents, or teachers think?

Recognize and discuss bullying seen in popular culture

Rules for Online Behavior

- Think Before you send

- Treat all people with respect both face to face and online

- Don't use language you wouldn't want your parents or teachers hearing you use

- Don't send messages when you're angry

- Remember things aren't private on the internet - once it's sent you can't take it back

- Remember there are consequences even if it happens outside of school – from parents, the school and even the police

Internet Safety Tips

- Keep computer in a common room not child's bedroom
- Establish rules for internet use
  - What sites you can visit
  - Know who they're friends with and who they're chatting with
  - When and how long can they use the computer
- Know your child's passwords and "friend" them on social media sites

Google

- Google your child
  - Search images, videos, newsgroups
  - Use quotation marks around child's name
- Set Google Alerts for your child's name

Parental Controls for Cell Phones

- Restrict Camera Use
- Restrict Voice Calls
- Restrict time of day phones will work
- Block Content
- Block Two-Way messages
- Limit Wireless Web access

Social Networking Sites

- Cyber Bullying violates terms of service agreement
  - Sites in violation should be reported
  - Facebook and Myspace will take down sites that violate the minimum age requirement 13 years old
- If known, cyber bullying should also be reported to the bully's Internet Service Provider
  - Cyber Bullying is a violation of the ISP's terms of service agreement and the account (or parent's account) may be closed

Sign Up   **Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.**

Using Facebook
Help Discussions
Getting Started
Safety
  General Safety
  Parents
  Educators
  Teens
  Law Enforcement

Welcome to the Safety Center

Facebook takes safety very seriously and strives to create an environment where everyone can connect and share comfortably. Find answers to a variety of safety questions here.

General Safety

Using Facebook safely is important, and the key to doing so is being informed. Find answers to common safety questions here.

Safety for Parents

Facebook appreciates all parents' concern for their teenagers. Parents can find answers to important safety questions here.

Safety for Educators

There are a number of Facebook best practices for educators, particularly when it involves the safety of their students. Find them here.

Safety for Teens

Using Facebook safely is important at any age. Teens can find answers to their unique safety questions here.

Safety for Law Enforcers

There are a number of Facebook best practices for law enforcement officials when it involves the safety of citizens. Find them here.

A Guide to Privacy on Facebook   Statement of Rights and Responsibilities

Privacy Policy   Security Page

Privacy FAQs   Compromised and hacked accounts

Login and password FAQs   More information on reporting abuse

Help Center

Resources

- http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov
- http://cyberbullying.us/index.php
- http://www.digizen.org/resources/cyberbullying/films/uk/lfit-film.aspx
- http://www.connectsafely.org/
- http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/index2.html
- www.wiredsafety.org
- http://www.netsmartz.org/Educators
- http://www.cox.com/takecharge/safe teens 2009/media/2009 teen survey internet and wireless safety.pdf
- http://cybersmartcurriculum.org/