



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE project safe childhood

Protecting Children from Online Exploitation and Abuse

project safe childhood



Anti-Cyberbullying

WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING, EXACTLY?

“Cyberbullying” occurs when a child, preteen, or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed, or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive, and digital technologies or mobile phone. It has to be a minor against another minor.

- ◆ The cyberbully one moment may become the victim the next. The kids often change roles, going from victim to bully and back again.
- ◆ Children have killed each other and committed suicide after having been involved in a cyberbullying incident.
- ◆ Cyberbullying is usually not a one time communication.
- ◆ Cyberbullying may rise to the level of a misdemeanor cyber harassment charge.
- ◆ Cyberbullying may result in the charge of juvenile delinquency.
- ◆ Cyberbullying can result in a child losing their ISP or IM accounts as a terms of service violation.



How Cyberbullying Works

There are two kinds of cyberbullying, **direct attacks** (messages sent directly) and **cyberbullying by proxy** (using others to help cyberbully the victim).

Why Do Kids Cyberbully Each Other?

- ◆ Kids are often motivated by anger, revenge, or frustration. Sometimes they do it for entertainment.
- ◆ They are power-hungry people who torment others to boost their ego.

Words Can Hurt You, Think Twice Before:

1. Forwarding a hurtful e-mail.
2. Allowing others to take videos or cell phone pictures of you during personal moments or in compromising poses.

IF YOU ARE BEING CYBERBULLIED:

- ◆ Block the person online.
- ◆ Do not take matters into your own hands.
- ◆ Just notify an adult.

If you don't allow cyberbullies to use you to embarrass or torment others, cyberbullying can quickly stop.

www.stopcyberbullying.org

Are You A Cyberbully?

Have you ever...

- ◆ Signed on someone else's screen name to gather info?
- ◆ Teased or frightened someone over an instant message (IM) ?
- ◆ Forwarded a private instant message (IM) conversation or email without the permission of the other person?
- ◆ Posted pictures or information about someone on a website without their consent?
- ◆ Used information found online to follow, tease, embarrass, or harass someone in person?
- ◆ Sent rude or scary things to someone even if you were just joking?
- ◆ Posted rude things or lies about someone online?



www.stopcyberbullying.org