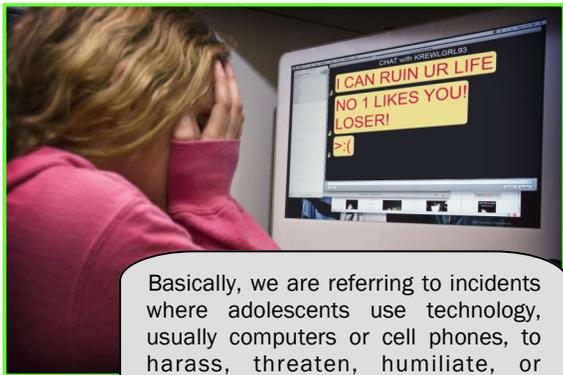


What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is defined in legal glossaries as:

- *Actions that use information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group.
- *Use of communication technologies for the intention of harming another person.
- *Use of internet service and mobile technologies such as web pages and discussion groups as well as instant messaging or SMS text messaging with the intention of harming another person.



Basically, we are referring to incidents where adolescents use technology, usually computers or cell phones, to harass, threaten, humiliate, or otherwise hassle their peers.

What Can I Do to Prevent Cyberbullying?

- *Never open messages from someone you don't know.
 - *If someone attempts to contact you, do your research before allowing them access to your information- check for mutual friends or groups.
 - *Always remember to log out of your accounts when using a public computer and make sure that the computer is not remembering your login information!
 - *Google yourself to make sure you're comfortable with the pictures and information available about you.
- (US Cyberbullying Research Center)*

I WANT MORE INFORMATION!

- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
<http://www.missingkids.com/home>
- Wisconsin Victim Helpline (WI Office of Victim Services)
(800) 446-6564
- US Department of Health and Human Services **Stop Bullying Initiative**
<http://www.stopbullying.gov/> **stopbullying.gov**
- National Crime Prevention Council
<http://www.npc.org/topics/cyberbullying>
- US Cyberbullying Research Center
<http://cyberbullying.us/>

Risser Justice Building
17 W Main St
PO Box 7857
Madison, WI 53703

Wisconsin Department of Justice
Phone: (608)266-1671
Fax: (608)267-2777

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In 2011, nearly HALF of all American teens reported being cyberbullied...and that number is increasing!

In one study, about 17% of teens reported that they had cyberbullied someone in the previous 6 months.

Girls are significantly more likely to be cyberbullied than boys.

Popular websites for cyberbullying include Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter, Instagram and Youtube.

Cyberbullying occurs most frequently over instant messaging services/text messaging.

All 50 states have laws regarding forms of cyber harassment, with some states making it a misdemeanor offense.

Some states even have a "Parental Liability" clause that holds the parent of the bully liable for damages.

What Are Some Examples of Cyberbullying?

- *Spreading rumors or gossip about someone online
 - *Sending hurtful messages or posting hurtful comments on their Wall/Feed
 - *Pretending to be another person
 - *Sending intimidating messages meant to start fights
 - *Posting embarrassing or degrading photos of someone
- (from the National Crime Prevention Council)*

What Can I Do if I'm Being Cyberbullied?

RECOGNIZE that you don't deserve to be treated that way...even if it's your close friends!

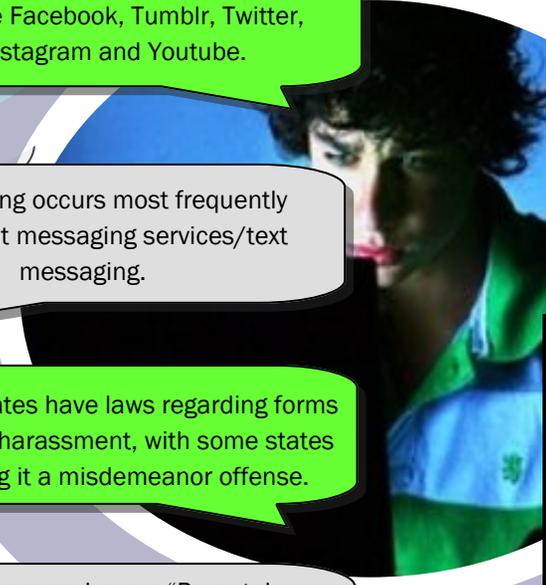
REPORT the content to the site and then block the user. Also, tell a trusted adult about what's going on.

RECORD when/where the bullying is happening. Save the messages or photos for your record.

RESIST the urge to reply! Revenge is never the best answer.

REFUSE to participate in another person's cyberbullying attempts by not forwarding or replying to messages or pictures.

(from the National Crime Prevention Council)



BUT IT'S NO BIG DEAL! IT WAS JUST A JOKE!!

NO. Cyberbullying is no laughing matter. No matter how harmless you think the picture or comment is, the consequences can be great, even deadly. Victims of cyberbullying experience depression, loss of self esteem, and even suicidal thoughts. Consequences for the bully can include fines, disciplinary actions in school and even criminal charges. The bully will be caught and punished—regardless if everyone is doing it.

(from the Cyberbullying Research Center)