

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is intentionally causing harm through the use of computers, cell phones and other electronic devices; usually practiced by teens and pre-teens.

Examples of Cyberbullying:



Direct harassment through IM's, texts, and emails on social networking sites like MySpace or Facebook.



Pretending to be the intended victim in order to give out personal information, sending provocative messages to others or inviting attack by being malicious.



Sending or posting sexual or degrading pictures.



Posting Internet polls that degrade or hurt someone: such as "Hot or Not" polls.



Creating Web sites or social network profiles to harass or humiliate someone.

Consequence

Though cyberbullies may think they are just having a laugh, actually what they are doing is hurting and possibly traumatizing the victim.

Reported on MSNBC: Nude photos of a 16-year-old girl in Cincinnati were circulated around her school after she broke up with her boyfriend. This led to severe harassment by her classmates and eventually to the girl's suicide.



Sexting is the sending or receiving of sexually suggestive or explicit text or pictures using a cell phone.



Distributing sexual images of someone under 18 can result in criminal charges for child pornography.

Cyber predation is using the Internet to find, lure, stalk and victimize boys and girls under 18.

Protecting Your Personal Information

What's your personal information?

Your personal information is information that is specific to you; information that identifies you. This includes your full name, address, social security number, bank account numbers, passwords, etc.

Your personal information can be used against you if it falls into the wrong hands. If your personal info is not protected, **Cyberbullies**, for example, can post your information on the Internet or hack into your profiles to impersonate you. **Internet**

predators can use your personal information to stalk, exploit or even find you. **Identity thieves** can use your identity to steal your money or open accounts in your name.

Protect your pictures, too!

Any photos you post online can be downloaded by anyone with access to the Web.

What does this mean? If you have a public profile on a social networking site like MySpace or Facebook, anyone with Internet access (such as kids in your school, cyber predators or your parents) can view and download your pictures and post them other places on the Internet.






Your photos can even be manipulated to look like something or someone else. Your photos can be morphed.... For example, **your head on someone else's nude body.**

How do you protect your personal information?



Do not post identifying information on your profiles or in a blog

-  Keep your profiles on **'private'** or **'friends only'**
-  Ask friends not to post your personal ID info or photos on the Internet
-  Don't send sexually explicit photos of yourself or anyone else

What can you do?

-  Block users on social networking sites that are sending you unwanted or mean messages
-  Change your password and create a different profile if your account has been hacked
-  Talk to your parents about changing your phone number or having specific numbers blocked if you are receiving harassing text messages or calls
-  Save harassing messages, emails or chats as evidence for a report
-  Do not retaliate or keep silent, **tell someone you trust.**

Report Cyberbullying and Cyber Predators to...

Your parents or another adult you trust

Your teacher, counselor or administrator at your school

Law enforcement by filing a report with local police

CyberTipline at www.cybertipline.com or 1-800-843-5678



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**PROTECTING YOURSELF
AND YOUR PERSONAL
INFORMATION**



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