

# Cyber-Bullying

- Using technology to **repeatedly** and **on purpose** say or do mean or hurtful things to another person **who has a hard time defending himself or herself**.

(Adapted from "Olweus, Dan and Susan P. Limber. Olweus Bullying Prevention: Teacher Guide, Hazelden Publishing, copyright 2007")

- Using technology to bully, harass, exclude or intentionally hurt others.

AKA: Electronic Bullying, Online Social Cruelty or Cyber Mobbing

**Cyber Bullying is done using:**

- e-mails
- text messaging
- instant messenger
- blogs
- web pages
- chat rooms
- discussion boards
- social networks
- tweets



**Cyber Bullying is:**

- Sending mean, vulgar, or threatening messages or pictures.
- Spreading rumors.
- Posting sensitive, private information about another person.
- Building web sites to target people, students, and even teachers.
- Pretending to be someone else in order to make another person look bad.
- Intentionally excluding someone from an online group.
- Stealing a person's password and using their online account.
- In many cases A CRIME!

## Cyber Bullying Categories:

### "Inadvertent"



- Role-play
- Responding
- May not realize it's cyber bullying

### "Mean Girls"



- Bored; Entertainment
- Ego based; promote own social status
- Often do in a group
- Intimidate on and off line
- Need others to bully; if isolated, stop

### "Power-Hungry"



- Want reaction
- Controlling with fear

### "Revenge of the Nerds" ("Subset of Power-Hungry")



- Often victims of school-yard bullies
- Throw 'cyber-weight' around
- Not school-yard bullies like Power-Hungry & Mean Girls

### "Vengeful Angel"



- Righting wrongs
- Protecting themselves

(Officer Sal Greco, Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department, 2010)

## Why is Cyber Bullying so Bad?



- Cell Phone Cameras and Immediate Internet Accessibility
- International Audience
- Online Predators
- Lack of Face to Face Contact
- People May Assume False Identities



## Cyber Bullying Facts:

- Affects 65-85% of kids
- Cyber bullying typically starts at about 9 years of age and usually ends after 14 years of age;
- after 14, it becomes cyber or sexual harassment due to nature of acts and age of actors.

(Officer Sal Greco, Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department, 2010)



## Current NYS Law:

- **§ 240.30 Aggravated harassment in the second degree.** A person is guilty of aggravated harassment in the second degree when, with intent to harass, annoy, threaten or alarm another person, he or she: 1. Either (a) communicates with a person, anonymously or otherwise, by telephone, or by telegraph, mail or any other form of written communication, in a manner likely to cause annoyance or alarm; or (b) causes a communication to be initiated by mechanical or electronic means or otherwise with a person, anonymously or otherwise, by telephone, or by telegraph, mail or any other form of written communication, in a manner likely to cause annoyance or alarm; or 2. Makes a telephone call, whether or not a conversation ensues, with no purpose of legitimate communication; or 3. Strikes, shoves, kicks, or otherwise subjects another person to physical contact, or attempts or threatens to do the same because of a belief or perception regarding such person's race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation, regardless of whether the belief or perception is correct; or 4. Commits the crime of harassment in the first degree and has previously been convicted of the crime of harassment in the first degree as defined by section 240.25 of this article within the preceding ten years. Aggravated harassment in the second degree is a class A misdemeanor.



(from Cyber-bullying. Officer Sal Greco, Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department, 2010)

## What to do about it.

- If you receive a hateful email, don't respond, tell an adult.
- Don't send messages when you are angry. Once you put it out there, you can't get it back.
- Don't give out personal information like passwords or phone numbers online.
- Never open a message from someone you don't know.
- Trust your instincts. If something makes you uncomfortable, tell an adult.
- If you receive a threatening message or find threatening information posted online about you, tell an adult.
- Save messages and conversations. Print out harassing information posted online. This is evidence. No cellular or online communication is untraceable.
- File a complaint with the senders email or cellular provider. Sending foul language or inappropriate content violates the terms of most service agreements.
- Practice good netiquette. Keep you online interactions civil.
- Don't spend too much time online.



## Sexting

Sexting - sending pictures containing sexual content or nudity.

**Sexting pictures of yourself or others, under the age of 18, is a crime!**

### Distribution of Child Pornography

**Do not send anyone nude or compromising pictures of yourself or others.**

## What to do if you receive a sext message.

- Delete it. If you receive a sext message containing a picture of anyone under the age of 18, you are now in possession of child porn. This is a crime.
- Do not forward pictures to show others what you have received, even your parents! If you forward on a sext message containing a picture of anyone under the age of 18, you are distributing child pornography. This is a crime.
- Speak to an adult and report the message. Be open to the thought that the sender of the message may need some help.



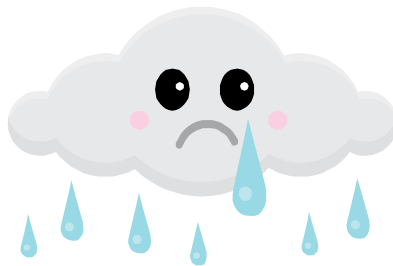
# Cybercide

Cybercide - the act of committing suicide as a result of cyber bullying.

AKA: Bullycide

## Suicide Prevention

**If you are feeling suicidal or know someone who is, please call  
1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)**



## Know the Warning Signs

### Five Warning Signs for Depression in Teens:

- Feeling of sadness or hopelessness, often accompanied by anxiety.
- Declining school performance.
- Loss of pleasure/interest in social and sports activities.
- Sleeping too little or too much.
- Changes in weight or appetite.

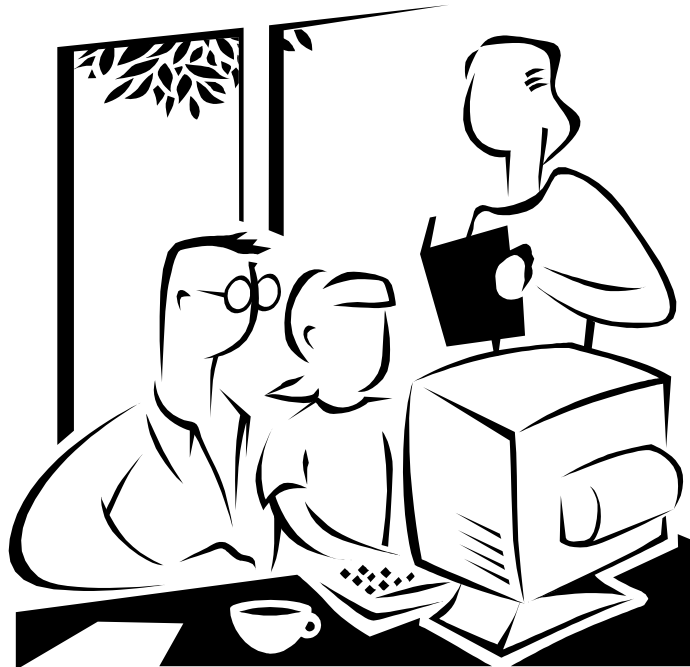


## Take Action:

Help!

### Steps a Parent Can Take:

- Get your child help (medical or mental health).
- Support your child (listen, avoid criticism and remain connected).
- File a complaint with the senders email or cellular provider. Sending foul language or inappropriate content violates the terms of most service agreements.
- Teach your child to practice good netiquette. Keep you online interactions civil.
- Set up parental controls on all computers.
- Know what your child is doing online.
- Contact the police if bullying involves:
  - Threats of violence
  - Extortion
  - Obscene or harassing phone calls or text messages
  - Harassment, stalking or hate crimes
  - Child pornography



### Resources:

Cyber-Bullying. Officer Sal Greco, Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department, 2010

National Child Safety Council: Internet Safety

Olweus, Dan and Susan P. Limber. Olweus Bullying Prevention: Teacher Guide, Hazelden

Publishing, copyright 2007

PoconoRecord.com

StopBullyingNow.com