

Crime Prevention Unit

Cyberbullying

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office





Introduction



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What is Cyberbullying?



Bullying behavior that takes place using digital devices

- Cell/Smart phones ~ Computers ~ Tablets
- Text ~ Apps ~ Social Media ~ Gaming
- Sharing negative, harmful, false information
- Sharing personal/private information to cause humiliation or embarrassment
- Some cyberbullying becomes criminal





Cyberbullying & Bullying

Virginia Law holds Virginia students to a model practice, and allows the School Board to use disciplinary measures if a student violates the model practice; *bullying is a violation.*

Certain behaviors associated with bullying can also result in punishment under Virginia Law, for example:

- A **Threat** is knowingly communicating a warning to kill or do bodily harm to someone. This is punishable as a Class 6 felony and can result in up-to 5 years imprisonment. (§ 18.2-60)
- **Extortion** is knowingly obtaining, by threat, control over the property of another, with intent to deprive said person of the property. This is a Class 5 felony and can result in up to 10 years imprisonment. (§ 18.2-59)
- An **Assault** is the attempt or offer, with force, to do bodily harm, while **assault and battery** is the actual infliction of bodily harm. This crime is classified as either a Class 1 misdemeanor- 12 months imprisonment and/or \$2500 fine, or a Class 6 felony (if the victim is intentionally selected based on race, religion, color or national origin), which can result in up to 5 years imprisonment. (§18.2-57)

Source: Attorney General Of Virginia





Cyberbullying & Bullying

- **Hazing** is the reckless or intentional endangerment of the health or safety of a student, or the infliction of a bodily injury on a student in connection with or for the purpose of an initiation, admission or affiliation with a club, organization, fraternity...regardless of whether the student voluntarily participated. This crime is a Class 1 misdemeanor, which can result in 12 months in jail and/or \$2500 fine. (§18.2-56)
- **Malicious wounding** is the shooting, stabbing, cutting, wounding or causing a bodily injury, with the intent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill and is a Class 3 Felony that can result in 5 - 20 years and a fine up to \$100,000. (§ 18.2-51)
- If such act is done unlawfully, not maliciously, then it is an **unlawful wounding** and is a Class 6 Felony that can result in 1-5 years; or 12 months in jail and/or \$2500 fine.

Harassment by computer is the use of a computer - with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass - to communicate obscene, vulgar, profane, lewd, lascivious, or indecent language or make any suggestion or proposal of an obscene nature, or to threaten any illegal or immoral act. This crime is a Class 1 misdemeanor and result in 12 months in jail and/or \$2500 fine. (§ 18.2-152.7:1)

Source: Attorney General Of Virginia





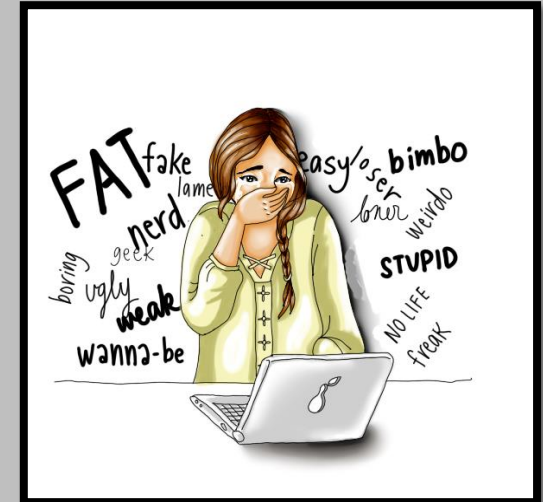
What does cyberbullying look like?

- Sending someone mean or threatening emails, instant messages, or text messages.
- Excluding someone from an instant messenger buddy list or blocking their access to online groups
- Tricking someone into revealing personal or embarrassing information and sending it to others
- Breaking into someone's email or instant message account to send cruel or untrue messages while posing as that person
- Creating websites to make fun of another person such as a classmate or teacher
- Using websites to rate peers as prettiest, ugliest, etc.



Cyberbullying

- If It occurs in the child's home the bullying can become more severe. Being bullied at home can take away the place children feel most safe.
- It can be harsher.
- It can be far reaching.
- It can be anonymous.
- It may seem inescapable.



<https://zaikaservant.wordpress.com>

Stop Cyberbullying





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWqDtz1LIR0>





Conclusion

- Cyberbullying is a problem
- It is a real concern for LCSO
- The effects can be life altering
- The effects can be life threatening
- LCSO takes the matter seriously and works closely with LCPS to help eliminate it





Questions

