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**CYBER-BULLYING**

Self-Protection from Electronic Harassment for Teen-agers.

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**WHAT IS CYBER-BULLYING?**

- Intentional repeated harassment of a person by another person or group using the internet or other electronic media.

- Key Elements:
  - Repetition
  - Intent to cause harm

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**Why is it a Problem?**

- Targets feel sad & depressed. Unlike past generations the bullying is 24/7.
- Victims are embarrassed or fearful to go to school.
- 20% of High School Students report being targeted by cyber-bullies.
- Strong link between cyber-bullying & negative behavior (drugs/alcohol/suicide).

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**Bullycide**

- The cyber-bullying combined with regular bullying leads to the child taking his or her own life.

- Los Angeles County response Investigation: LADA, DCFS, LASD & Mental Health Dept., LA Coroner.

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**Where does it Happen?**

- Social Networking sites (Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, Linkin)
- Chatrooms
- Entertainment sites (X-box live, Youtube).

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**True or False?**

- Only boys bully.
- Spreading rumors is not bullying.
- Only the bully and the victim are aware of the cyber-bullying.
- Parents know their child bullies others.
**True or False**

- Kids who are cyber-bullied rarely cyber-bully others.
- “What happens in school, stays in school.”
- Only LGBT kids are bullied.

**How to Prevent Cyber-Bullying**

- Set privacy settings on your accounts.
- Never share passwords with others except your parents.
- Think about what you post or say online.
- Remember photos are forever on the internet. (Facial recognition & Cataloging software).
- Don’t visit chatrooms.

**Case Study**

- Hacker pretended to be her to all of Sydney’s FB friends & asked for photos.
- Police investigate. Hacker is a student at her school. Sentenced to Juvenile detention camp for one month.

**Case Study**

- Seth, 13 year-old student.
- Different hair style & clothes than the other students.
- Bullied every day for years by texts.
- Group beating in a park.
- 16 students suspended; 8 sent to Juvenile Detention Camp.

**Case Study**

- Carlee sends a nude picture of herself to her boyfriend Mike.
- One month later Carlee & Mike break-up.
- Mike sends the photo to his friend Burt.
- Burt sends a group text with the photo to the whole school body.
- Mike suspended; Burt Juvenile Camp.

**Case Study**

- Max, a Junior, meets 22 year-old Jackie in a chatroom. They talk for months.
- Jackie says “Come out with me to LA and meet a few of my celebrity friends.”
- Two weeks later Max meets her. Actually, he is a 64 year-old registered sex offender.
- “Jackie” gets six years prison.
**What do When Bullied?**

- Tell a trusted adult.
- Block the cyber-bully. Contact ISP, Phone provider, Website.
- Keep the evidence; create a log.

Report the incident to your school.

Report the pattern of incidents to the police.

**How to Get Help?**

- Find new opportunities to make new friends (sports, clubs, after-school job).
- Seek out LGBT support groups.
- Ask for help from a counselor or mental health professional.
- Safe Place to Learn Law (7/1/12)
- Ca. Schools must post policies & complaint procedures for bullying.

**LOS ANGELES DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE**

Visit the LA DA’s office website for more information: [http://da.co.la.ca.us/](http://da.co.la.ca.us/)