



Cyber Bullying

Martinsville Office of the
Commonwealth's Attorney

55 W Church St

Virginia Law on Cyber Bullying

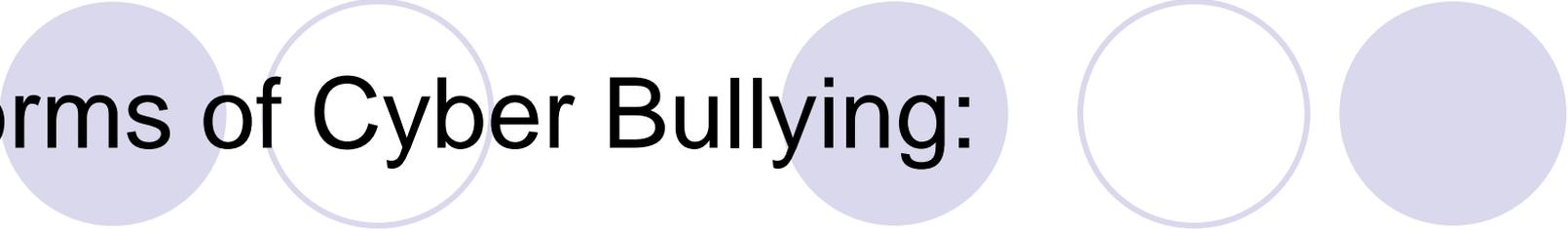
- § 18.2-427. Use of profane, threatening, or indecent language over public airways or by other methods.
- HB 2059 clarifies that the current statutory provision prohibiting the use of obscene, vulgar, or indecent language over the telephone applies to electronic communications, including visual or electronic messages, received or transmitted by a cellular phone or other wireless telecommunications device.
- Class 1 misdemeanor

How this problem came about...

Cyber bullying became a growing problem due to an increased use and dependency on interactions via computers and cell phones.

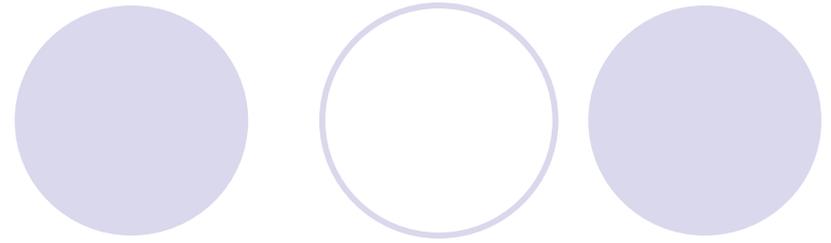


Forms of Cyber Bullying:

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- Text messages
- Stealing passwords
- Blogs
- Websites
- Picture messaging
- Interactive gaming
- Sending malicious code
- Sexting
- Chat rooms
- Posing to be someone else by using their username

Negative Effects:



- Depression
- Anger
- Frustration
- Suicide
- Fear
- Low self esteem
- Lowering of GPA
- Delinquent behavior



Megan Meier



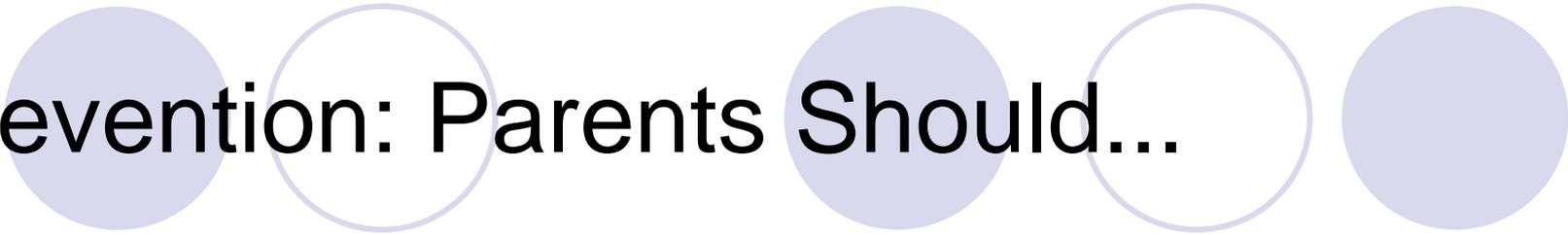
“Mean Girl”



Challenges in the Fight to Stop Cyber Bullying

- Many people don't see the harm
- Reluctance to take on responsibility
- Bullying can go undetected
- Often the bully remains anonymous





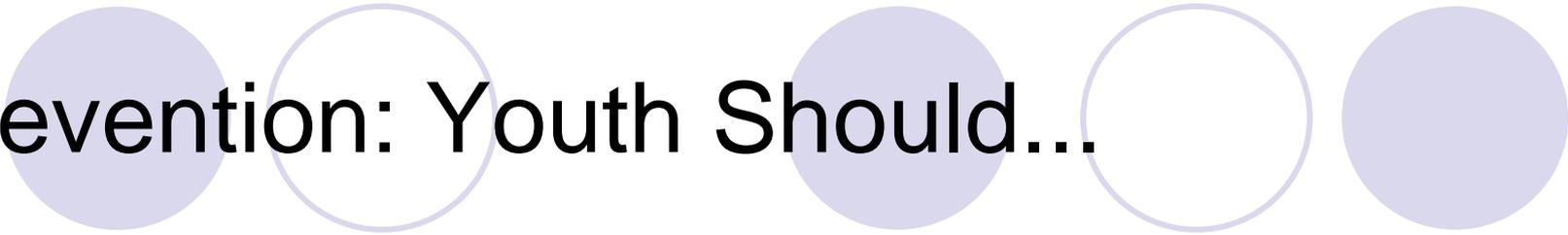
Prevention: Parents Should...

- Make sure children feel and are safe and secure
- Convey unconditional support
- Contact parents of offender
- Educate their children on online bullying
- Make an “Internet-Use and/or Cell phone-use Contract”

Prevention: Schools Should...

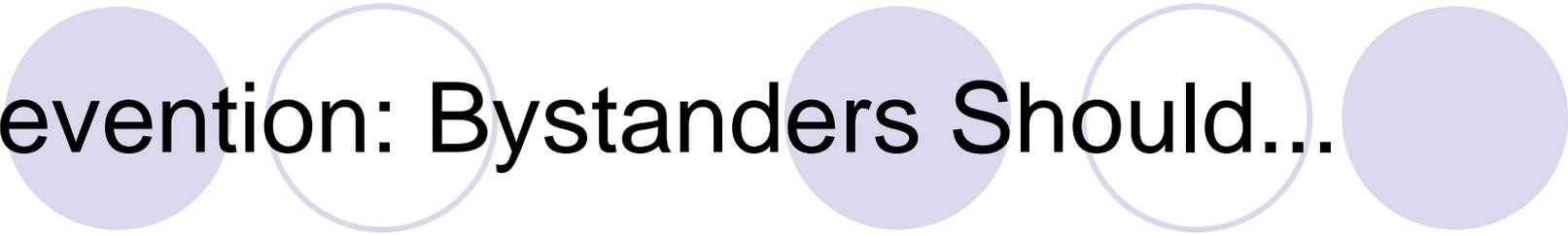
- Educate School Administration on responsible Internet-use
- Review their harassment/bullying policies





Prevention: Youth Should...

- Develop a relationship with an adult they trust
- Ignore minor teasing and name-calling
- Keep all evidence of cyber bullying
- Show parents what websites they use and why
- Take advantage of the “Privacy Settings”



Prevention: Bystanders Should...

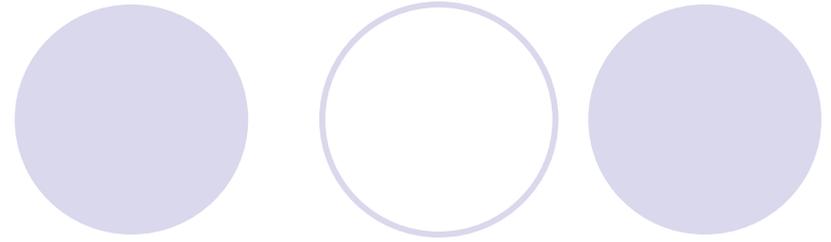
- Know **WHAT** they see and **WHEN**
- Stand up for the victim
- Tell an adult they trust
- Never participate in the bullying



Prevention: Law Enforcement Should...

- Be aware
- Be prepared
- Respond to actions that are illegal
- Talk to parents and students

How to Respond:



- Tell a trusted adult
- Never open, read or respond to messages from cyber bullies
- If it is school related, tell your school
- Block the bully in IM chatting
- Do not erase the messages in which the bullying occurs and print them
- Call the police if there is physical harm involved
- Keep as much documentation as possible

Consequences

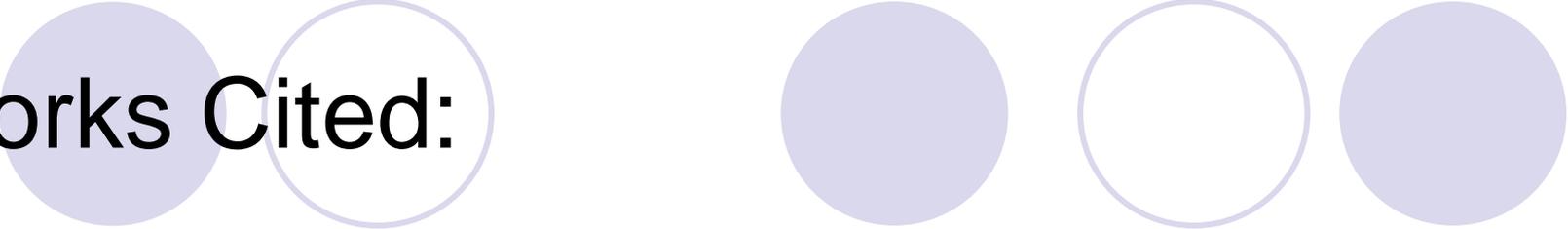
Cyber bullying may rise to the level of a misdemeanor cyber-harassment charge, or if the child is young enough may result in the charge of juvenile delinquency



For More Information:

- www.ncpc.org
- www.wiredsafety.org
- www.stopcyberbullying.org
- www.stopbullyingnow.org
- www.cyberbullying.us
- www.isafe.org
- www.cyberbully.org

Works Cited:



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