

# Assessing the Threat



Kentucky Center for School Safety  
www.kysafeschools.org

## Cyberbullying

### **The kind of threat:**

- The communication uses lewd language
- The communication insults your child directly (“You are stupid!”)
- The communication threatens your child vaguely (“I’m going to get you!”)
- The communication threatens your child with bodily harm. (“I’m going to beat you up!”)
- There is a general serious threat. (“There is a bomb in the school!” or “Don’t take the school bus today!”)
- The communication threatens your child with serious bodily harm or death (“I am going to break your legs!” or “I am going to kill you!”)

### **The frequency of the threats:**

- It is a one-time communication
- The communication is repeated in the same or different ways
- The communications are increasing
- Third-parties are joining in and communications are now being received from (what appears to be) additional people

### **The source of the threats:**

- Your child knows who is doing this
- Your child thinks they know who is doing this
- Your child has no idea who is doing this
- The messages appear to be from several different people

### **The nature of the threats:**

- Repeated e-mails or IMs
- Following the child around online, into chat rooms, favorite Web sites, etc.
- Building fake profiles, Web sites or posing as your child’s e-mail or IM
- Planting statements to provoke third-party stalking and harassment
- Signing your child up for porn sites and e-mailing lists and junk e-mail and IM.
- Breaking in to their accounts online
- Stealing or otherwise accessing their passwords
- Posting images of the child online (taken from any source, including video and photo phones)
- Posting real or doctored sexual images of the child online
- Sharing personal information about the child
- Sharing intimate information about the child (sexual, special problems, etc.)
- Sharing contact information about the child coupled with a sexual solicitation (“for a good time call ...” or “I am interested in [fill in the blank] sex...”)

Stop Cyberbullying (wiredkids.org)

[http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/what\\_is\\_cyberbullying\\_exactly.html](http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/what_is_cyberbullying_exactly.html)

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- Reporting the child for real or provoked terms of service violations (“notify wars” or “warning wars”)
- Encouraging that others share their top ten “hit lists,” or ugly lists, or slut lists online and including your child on that list.
- Posting and encouraging others to post nasty comments on your child’s blog.
- Hacking your child’s computer and sending your child malicious codes.
- Sending threats to others (like the president of the United States) or attacking others while posing as your child.
- Copying others on your child’s private e-mail and IM communications.
- Posting bad reviews or feedback on your child without cause.
- Registering your child’s name and setting up a bash Web site or profile.
- Posting rude or provocative comments while posing as your child (such as insulting racial minorities at a Web site devoted to that racial minority).
- Sending spam to others while posing as your child.
- Breaking the rules of a Web site or service while posing as your child.
- Setting up a vote for site (like “hot or not?”) designed to embarrass or humiliate your child.
- Masquerading as your child for any purpose.
- Posting your child’s text-messaging address or cell phone number online to encourage abuse and increase your child’s text-messaging or cell phone charges.
- Launching a denial of service attack on your child’s Web site
- Sending “jokes” about your child to others or mailing lists.