

THE LAW SQUAD



CYBERBULLYING – A growing concern !!

Cyberbullying is any cyber-communication or publication posted or sent by a minor (by email, instant messenger, website, blog, diary site, web profile, social networking sites, interactive games, handheld devices, cell phones, etc.) that is intended to frighten, embarrass, harass, annoy or target in anyway, another minor.

What are the types of Cyberbullying?:

There are generally two types: direct attacks – messages sent to the victim directly or what is called “by proxy” attacks - using other to cyberbully the victim. This can take the form of a “bashing website,” where you are asked to vote for the ugliest, fattest, etc. or starting an online blog about a person.

What can be done about it?

If it rises to the level of a physical threat of harm, call the police and also report the matter to your school district. While schools have a hard time regulating students’ after-school conduct on their own private computers, in the Fall of 2006, Myspace.com published an online guide for school administrators for dealing with this issue. It also created a hotline and email address for the exclusive use of school officials to notify Myspace of problem web pages and postings.

What should your child do if they become a victim?

Do not ignore it! Your child should tell you and an adult at school about what else is happening between them and the individuals. Often cyberbullying is just one activity that is going on between the parties involved and usually escalates once begun. The victim should not respond to the bully in any way and should not delete the communication. They should also report the incident to their ISP and the website administrator. If possible, block any future emails from the sender For more info and tips, check out the following helpful websites: cyberbullying.org; websafecrackerz.com; internetsafetyzone.co.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A SEMINAR CALL:

516-746-0459 ask for: Susan Kuschel, Program Director