

CYBERBULLYING SPOTTING THE SIGNS

Young people today are using the Internet for just about everything, including bullying. Every day all across the nation, people are being cyberbullied in the comfort of their own homes. Often students who are being bullied at school go home with hopes of escaping, only to find that when they get on the Internet, the bullying continues.

Though a teen may be being bullied, they may not know that help is available or may feel too embarrassed to speak up. With the amount of time young people are spending on the Internet or on their phones, it is important to be able to spot the signs of cyberbullying.

Keep in mind that cyberbullying may be happening on top of other victimization. Teens may be experiencing physical bullying, dating violence, harassment, stalking, or other forms of victimization. Fortunately, victim service providers are qualified and trained to recognize the signs of victimization and are skilled in providing effective victim services. Eighty percent of victim service providers believe that they are uniquely qualified to both recognize the signs of bullying and cyberbullying, so it's time teens know where they can turn for help.*

**Statistics from the National Crime Prevention Council's 2010 Cyberbullying Prevention Research study*

EMOTIONAL

- + Becomes withdrawn or shy
- + Shows signs of depression
- + Is extremely moody or agitated
- + Is anxious or overly stressed out
- + Shows signs of aggressive behavior

SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL

- + Suddenly stops using the computer
- + Changes eating or sleeping habits (e.g., nightmares)
- + No longer wants to participate in activities once enjoyed
- + Hurts self, attempts or threatens suicide
- + Suddenly changes friends

The biggest red flag is a withdrawal from technology. If you notice a sudden change in computer or phone usage, talk to the child. They may be being cyberbullied.

For more information check out www.ncpc.org

ACADEMIC

- + Doesn't want to go to school
- + Gets into trouble at school
- + Skips school
- + Loses interest in school
- + Drops in grades

SIGNS THAT A TEEN MAY BE CYBERBULLYING OTHERS

- + Stops using the computer or turns off the screen when someone comes near
- + Appears nervous or jumpy when using the computer or cell phone
- + Is secretive about what they are doing on the computer
- + Spends excessive amounts of time on the computer
- + Becomes upset or angry when computer or cell phone privileges are limited or taken away

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