



## THE CRIMINAL CONSEQUENCES OF BULLYING

While bullying itself is not a crime, the elements that go into making it up are. From a Law Enforcement perspective, bullying behavior can be classified as, but not limited to:

- Aggravated Assault
- Assault
- Battery
- Aggravated Battery
- Stalking
- Cyber-Stalking
- Mob Action
- Intimidation
- Hate Crime
- Harassment through Electronic Communication
- Harassment by Telephone
- Disorderly Conduct
- Criminal Damage to Property
- Criminal Damage to State Supported Property
- Criminal Defacement

It's important to remember that Law Enforcement Officers can be used as a resource for addressing bullying behaviors and can be contacted when concerns about bullying arise.

## ADDRESSING BULLYING

To address bullying behaviors, we must be clear that bullying is not a school problem, but a community problem. Bullying is a problem that affects everyone in society, in some manner, and it will take the efforts of the entire community to solve it.

- Raise community awareness by holding forums, posting messages on school websites, distributing brochures/flyers about bullying awareness;
- Encourage Schools to address the issue with the entire student body as well as teachers and school administrators, to develop rules against bullying;
- Teach people how to solve problems without fighting;
- Accept that your child may have a more vested role in the incident than originally presented and to accept the information about your child at face value;
- Understand that the world might not see your child as perfect;
- Know when to ask for outside help and teach children how to do the same;
- Encourage children to:
  - Refuse to participate in bullying activities
  - Tell friends to stop bullying
  - Report all forms bullying to a trusted adult
  - Monitor juvenile internet/cellular activity

**Remember that Bullying stops when WE as a COMMUNITY stop it!**

To request a presentation please visit:

<http://champaignpolice.com/outreach-request/>

For more information, contact School Resource Officer Jonathan Westfield at (217) 351-4545 or [westfijd@ci.champaign.il.us](mailto:westfijd@ci.champaign.il.us)

## BULLYING: A Better Understanding of an Age-Old Problem



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## WHAT IS BULLYING?

**Bullying** is any intentional act by a more powerful person (or perceived to be more powerful) intended to hurt or embarrass another person; or a way in which someone gains attention at the expense of others.

## WHAT IS CYBER-BULLYING?

**Cyber-bullying** is a form bullying where the Internet, cell phones or other devices are used to send text messages and/or post images intended to hurt or embarrass another person.

## TYPES OF BULLYING BEHAVIOR

Bullying behavior can be but, not limited to the following:

- Teasing
- Name calling or put downs
- Stealing
- Gossiping/rumor spreading
- Direct/indirect attacks (physical and/or verbal)
- Social isolation – purposely not talking /playing with someone
- Forcing someone to participate in activities against their will

## WHAT BULLYING IS NOT

When two or more people are mutually involved/equal participates and; have opposing ideas, beliefs, or actions and; engage in a verbal and/or physical confrontation; a fight

This is a **CONFLICT** not **BULLYING**

## BULLYING—THE EXPERIENCE

People can experience bullying in one of three ways:

1. **Victim:** Someone who does not provoke or respond to the bullying
2. **Witness:** Someone who is present and is in a position to help in some way
3. **Offender:** The person responsible for the bullying. This also includes the followers or onlookers who do nothing to stop the bullying behavior or further promote the behavior by laughing, egging on the bully, etc.

## WHERE BULLYING OCCURS

For victims, bullying commonly occurs:

- On the school bus
- In the classroom
- In the bathroom at school
- In the hallways
- In the cafeteria
- On the playground
- At parties
- At places of employment
- At home
- In the neighborhood
- On-line through social networking sites
- Through cellular communication

In reality, bullying occurs any place where people can interact with each other and where there is little or no direct supervision.

## RESPONDING TO BULLYING:

The most important response, that victims and witnesses to bullying can do, is to **REPORT IT!!!**

As long a bullying incidents go unreported, very little can be done to help the victims. Report the incident as soon as possible; do not wait! The quicker it is reported, the sooner the bullying behavior can be addressed.

Unfortunately, when it comes to bullying those involved sometimes minimize the problem and blame the victim. However, the blame lies solely with the offender, the Bully!

Some ways that people tend to minimize bullying behaviors:

- “Kids will be kids”
- “Suck it up and deal with it”
- “It’s all just a part of growing up”
- “It was just a joke”
- “It’s all just a big misunderstanding”

This type of behavior only promotes further bullying. When confronted with minimizing responses, victims often react in a negative way. Some reactions may include:

- Seeking revenge on the bully
- Bullying others
- Avoiding of social interactions
- Hurting oneself

All complaints of bullying should be taken seriously and promptly addressed!