

Indiana State Police Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Youth Educators Program

Past high profile instances of youth being victimized by cyber bullies, and sexual predators demanded a proactive program be developed and implemented in an effort to inoculate youth against such criminal acts.

There are 61 Internet Crimes against Children Task Force (ICAC) in the United States. However, the Indiana ICAC Task Force is the first to have full-time Youth Educators. Each Youth Educator works within the structure of the Indiana ICAC Task Force with presentations specifically designed to prevent victimization in the areas of:

- Online child sexual solicitation
- Online child extortion, also known as sextortion
- Online production of child pornography
- Online bullying, also known as cyberbullying
- Online radicalization mitigation to reduce the recruitment of youth by terrorists and criminal extremists.

The Indiana ICAC Youth Educators provides age appropriate Cyber Safety presentations to help reach our youth before they become victims, to provide help to those who have already been victimized and mitigate the potential for acts of school violence committed due to online victimization.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

WWW.Cybertipline.com

WWW.Netsmartz.org

WWW.Missingkids.com



***Want to learn more about the
Indiana State Police ICAC Youth
Educator Program?***

icacyouthed.isp.IN.gov

***View our appearance on the ISP
Road Show:***

<https://youtu.be/OBMHZzzAWk8>



CYBERBULLYING



ICAC Internet Crimes Against Children
Task Force

Cyberbullying is exactly what it sounds like - bullying through technology like cell phones, social media sites and online games.

Research tells us that:

- About 25% of middle and high school students have been cyberbullied.
- About 16% of students admitted to cyberbullying others.
- Youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or questioning are more likely to be involved, both as a victim and a bully.

Some examples of cyberbullying include:

- Sending someone mean texts.
- Photo shopping or altering a picture to embarrass someone.
- Creating a fake profile to post defamatory information or images.
- Posting fight videos online to embarrass the person who lost.
- Spreading rumors and gossip online.
- Posting pictures intended to embarrass someone.
- Sending threatening or harassing comments.



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Even young children who don't use social media or cell phones can experience some form of cyberbullying while playing online games or playing in a virtual world. For example, they may be:

- Exposed to inappropriate language while chatting.
- Taunted by other players.
- Targeted by more experienced players.
- Ignored by other players or excluded from playing.

Bullying vs Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying differs from regular bullying in a number of ways. It:

- Often spreads faster than in-person bullying because of instant online communication.
- Has a wider audience because it can easily be sent to a potentially unlimited amount of people.
- Follows children home from school so they can't get away from it.

All of this can undermine your child's sense of security. They don't feel safe at school – because cyberbullies are frequently classmates and other peers – and they don't feel safe at home because the bullying is happening 24/7 online.

Fighting Cyber bullying

Here are some specific ways you can help if your child is a victim of cyberbullying:

- Consider saving the evidence – Ask the school or the police about taking screenshots and printing out any

messages. If there is an investigation, they may want to see proof of what was posted.

- Block cyberbullies – Tell your child not to respond to the messages and take advantage of website features that allow you to block any user who is bothering you.
- Set up new accounts - This includes email, IM, social media sites and cell phone numbers. Make sure they only give the new information to friends they trust.
- Talk to the school - Remember, most cyberbullying involves in-person bullying by someone your child knows, usually a classmate. Teachers and administrators should work together on a plan to address the bullying in school, and they may have specific rules against cyberbullying, too.
- Report it to the website or app where the cyberbullying is taking place - You might also be able to report unwanted text messages to your cell phone provider and block certain numbers. If you feel that any laws have been broken or if your child has been threatened, then contact the police for help.

Finally, remember to take your child seriously. Do not use phrases like, "Kids will be kids." Bullying can be very painful. Comfort your child by offering your support and understanding.