

## Consequences for Bullies

- Punishment, suspension, expulsion
- Humiliation and isolation from peers
- CRIMINAL PUNISHMENT

**Not all behavior is illegal but certain acts of bullying may constitute a crime**

**— possible criminal charges —**

- **Assault** (GL c.265, §13A)
- **Assault & Battery** (GL c.265, §13A)
- **Criminal Harassment** (GL c.265, §43A)
- **Harassing/Annoying Phone Calls** (GL c.269, §14A)
- **Threats** GL c.275, § 4 (GL c.209A, §7)
- **Disruption of School Assembly** (GL c. 272, §40)
- **Civil Rights Violation** (GL c.265, §§3, 38)
- **Malicious Destruction of Property** (GL c.266, §127)

## Consequences of having a criminal record:

- Denied access to education
- Denied access to jobs
- Denied access to housing

## Bullies are more likely than their peers to:

Get into frequent fights  
Be injured in a fight  
Vandalize property  
Steal property  
Smoke  
Drink alcohol  
Abuse drugs  
Carry a weapon  
Drop out of school  
Get arrested

## Bullying of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Students (LGBT)

LGBT students may be the targets of bullying. Some LGBT students report that they feel unsafe in school because of their sexual orientation. This in addition to other factors may contribute to a higher rate of suicide attempts in the LGBT community. Like all bullying, it is critical to talk with victims and to report the bullying.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT BULLYING

[www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)

[www.doe.mass.edu/bullying](http://www.doe.mass.edu/bullying)

<http://marccenter.webs.com>

[www.stopbullyingnow.com](http://www.stopbullyingnow.com)

[www.stopcyberbullying.org](http://www.stopcyberbullying.org)

[www.cyberbullyhelp.com](http://www.cyberbullyhelp.com)

[www.thatnotcool.com](http://www.thatnotcool.com)

[www.athinline.org](http://www.athinline.org)

Visit [www.bristolda.com](http://www.bristolda.com)  
for additional resources

**STOP  
THINK  
SEND**

  
Office of the Bristol County District Attorney  
C. Samuel Sutter

When you are online do you know and trust who you're dealing with—or what you're sharing or downloading? How would you feel if the **public** sees your text message or online posting? Asking questions first can help you protect yourself, your friends, your phone or your computer. **Stop and think before you send. Information that you text or post online may not disappear even after you think you've deleted it!**

OFFICE OF THE BRISTOL COUNTY  
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# BULLYING PREVENTION



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**Bullying is a Serious Problem**

Parents can play a key role in preventing and stopping bullying. The first step is to know if their child participates in bullying activities or is bullied by others. Parents should discuss bullying with their children because many children do not raise the topic of bullying with their parents.

***Bullying is not a rite of passage,  
it can have serious consequences!***

Bullying can severely affect the victim's self-image, social interactions and school performance, often leading to insecurity, lack of self-esteem and depression in adulthood. School dropout rates and absences among victims of bullying are much higher than among other students.

You can help your child and your community by learning how to recognize bullying, educating others and intervening to stop children from being harmed. Talk to your child about bullying. Learn the warning signs. Know the consequences. Understand your role when your child is being bullied or is bullying others.

**What is bullying?**

Bullying is ***aggressive behavior that is intentional and that involves an imbalance of power or strength.***

Typically, the behavior is repeated over time. Bullying can take many forms such as hitting or punching (***physical bullying***); teasing or name-calling (***verbal bullying***); intimidation through gestures or social exclusion (***emotional bullying***); or by using technology (***cyber-bullying***). Cyber-bullying happens online and may occur in an e-mail, a text message, an online game or social networking site. It might involve rumors or images posted on someone's profile.

**Warning Signs of Bullying**

- Exhibiting changes in behavior, such as being withdrawn and passive, being overly active and aggressive or being self-destructive
- Crying or showing other signs of depression or anxiety
- Exhibiting low self-esteem
- Showing signs of fear when around or asked about certain situations or people
- Having unexplained injuries, torn or missing clothes or damage to personal property such as toys, games, bookbags, etc.
- Demonstrating psychosomatic symptoms such as stomach pains, fatigue and sleep disturbance which may be caused by anxiety or depression

**What Parents Can Do**

- Talk with your child and gather more information
- Monitor your child's activities and relationships with others, especially at times when observation is not expected
- Supervise and review electronic communication on the internet, social networking sites and cell phones
- Report suspected acts of bullying or cyber-bullying to your school principal pursuant to your school's bullying prevention and intervention plan
- Do not attempt to mediate the situation on your own by bringing a victim and bully together and/or contacting the parents of the suspected bully

**Consequences to the Victim**

Bullying can seriously affect a person's mental health, academic performance and physical well being. It can cause pain, isolation/loneliness, depression, self-harm and may be one of several factors that contribute toward a suicide attempt or completion.

**What if Your Child is Bullying Others?**

- Address the behaviors openly with your child
- Let your child know bullying is unacceptable
- Develop firm and clear rules for behavior
- Follow up with praise for compliance and consequences for noncompliance
- Model appropriate behaviors for your child
- Discuss counseling options with school personnel or a physician