

Securing My Digital Future

Office of the Illinois Attorney General
High Tech Crimes Bureau





Online to Offline Incident

Over the weekend, the following messages are exchanged on Twitter between two girls:

Girl A tweets to Girl B: “I’m going to beat you up!”

Girl B responds to Girl A: “Not if I get to you first 😊”

During PE class the following week, Girl A hits Girl B while in the locker room. Girl C videos the incident and posts it to Twitter.

- How could the fight have been prevented?
- What are the possible consequences to the fight?
- What could you do if you witness this type of situation?





No Filter

Kari is a part-time babysitter who loves watching kids. Her personality can be described as energetic and bubbly. Around her neighborhood, she is a highly recommended babysitter. In the middle of a challenging night of babysitting, Kari posts an image of the children she is watching with the following caption: “#brats.”

- What are your initial responses to Kari’s post?
- How might her online post impact her?
- What concerns should be considered when taking pictures, posting pictures and assigning them a hashtag?





Hate Page

An “anonymous” hate page has been created for a fellow classmate. The page consists of altered images of the student along with mean comments and threats.

- What would you do if you received an invite to follow the page?
- What is the difference between reporting and snitching?
- What can the targeted student do about the page?
- How can pages such as this impact the school environment?
- What are the consequences, if any, of creating, joining and/or posting to a site like this?
- What are examples (without using names) of similar situations in your school?





“Nothing to Hide”

Chelsea has purposely left her Instagram account settings open to the public, as she has “nothing to hide.” She currently has 4,500 followers and loves to receive positive feedback on her pictures. Sometimes she’ll message with those wanting to get to know her better on Kik.

- What are the risks of leaving an account open to the public?
- Why do you think some kids don’t enable privacy settings?
- What should you think about before posting content online?
- What factors do you consider when adding friends or followers online? Do you think Chelsea knows the people she is “kicking”?
- Why should it be a privilege to see your posts?





Drama or Bullying?

Online drama versus cyberbullying. Often these two terms are interchanged; however, they refer to two different types of events.

- Define online drama and cyberbullying.
- Provide an example of online drama versus cyberbullying (without using real names).
- How can those involved in the situations seek to resolve their issues?
- How should peers respond to the situations you described above?
- How can adults provide assistance?





Hurt & Betrayed

Sarah, a 7th grader, is dating Joe, who is an 8th grader. Sarah learns via text that Joe sent an inappropriate picture to an 8th grade girl that Sarah despises. In return, the 8th grade girl sent Joe an inappropriate photo of herself. Angered and devastated, Sarah finds the girl the next morning at school and hits her.

- How else could Sarah have responded?
- How will administration handle the situation?
- Who will be part of the school discipline conversations?
- Could Joe receive a punishment? Why?





Can't Take it Back

Matt, an 8th grader, has been communicating with Kate, whom he met online, for the past few months. As time passes, Matt becomes trusting of her and upon request, sends nude photos of himself. Matt feels regret after sending the first few images and decides he will not send any more. However, Kate continues to pressure him, threatening him that if he doesn't send more, she'll post his images online.

- Why do you think Matt sent the nude photos?
- Do you think Kate is a girl Matt's age? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Kate is threatening Matt?
- How should Matt handle the situation?
- What fears may prevent Matt from reporting the situation to a trusted adult?





Sent & Received

You receive a group text from a friend with an embarrassing picture of a classmate. Over the course of the day, many texts are sent back and forth amongst the group making fun of the student in the picture. You are in many classes with the student in the picture, and therefore have daily interactions with him or her.

- What would you do if you received an embarrassing picture of another student?
- What could you do if you became part of this type of group situation?
- How could this situation impact the school day?
- What are the consequences the targeted student may face?



Question & Answer

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