

CYBER BULLYING

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN ONLINE



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Erase Cyber Bullying For Good.



-  The Internet has changed both the number of bullying instances as well as the way bullies operate.
-  “Names may never hurt me” doesn’t apply when someone can publish repeated hurtful comments and have the message go out to hundreds of others who can send it to hundreds of others.
-  The Internet has created the means to torment a child and we need a statute to address the ease with which kids can torment other kids because of that.
-  Though schools have programs to address bullying that occurs on school property, often bullying is done through social media not connected with the school.
-  In early 2015, Representative Marsico introduced HB 229 to protect kids who may be the victims of bullies who use electronic media to harm their victim.
-  HB 229 was signed by the Governor on July 10, 2015 and was designated Act 26. It became law in Pennsylvania on September 8.
-  Under Act 26:
 - A child who suffers repeated harassment that would cause severe emotional distress to any child who is the victim’s age now has recourse.
 - Police may charge the bully with the misdemeanor of “Cyber Harassment of a child.”
 - If the bully is a juvenile, the juvenile court will have the power to place him or her in a diversion program to educate the offender on the terrible consequences of bullying.
 - If the situation warrants it, the bully may be charged in juvenile court where, after a hearing, the court can enter an appropriate order to correct the behavior.
 - If the bully is over the age of 18, the court of common pleas will have jurisdiction and can sentence the offender to up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$2500.

