



What is a "Cyberbully"?

A cyberbully is someone who uses technology to harass, embarrass, intimidate, or stalk someone else.

The methods used can include emails, instant messaging, text messages sent via cell phones, social networking, video gaming, sending digital photos and other means of electronic communications.

Many times, a cyberbully is also a bully in face to face encounters. Bullying over the computer is a natural extension of their destructive behavior.

Some people who become cyberbullies have often been the victims of bullying. They may take out their anger and frustration in cyberspace. They may be targeting the people who bully them or they may have picked a different target.

Still others regard cyberbullying as just a game -- nothing more than a fun way to pass their time.

Cyberbullies attempt to intimidate and control using:

- angry and vulgar argumentative messages
- cruel, offensive, and insulting messages
- threats and false promises

Using today's technology, the cyberbully can:

- post secrets or embarrassing information, including pictures, for everyone to see
- post gossip or rumors for the explicit purpose of damaging the person's reputation
- send out messages pretending to be the victim in an attempt to damage that person's character and reputation and to destroy friendships.

The AFIM a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed by experienced video game developers and former interactive entertainment executives to provide parents with the information, tools and resources they need to guide and protect their families in the use and enjoyment of video games, interactive entertainment and the Internet. To learn more about the AFIM and how we can help your church or organization just call us at **1-866-795-2433** or go to: **www.afim.org**