

# The Intersection of Social Media and Cyber-Bullying

Dr. Michael V. Pregot , LIU -Brooklyn

# 5 Cases -Fall Semester 2014

- Case 1 - Social Harassment
- Case 2 - Hate Crime Category
- Case 3- Polling Site
- Case 4 - Impersonation for Financial Gain
- Case 5 - Outing Secrets

# Cyber-Bullying Vocabulary

- Anonymizer -intermediate disguises IP address
- Bash Board - Hateful messages
- Flaming - mutual rude remarks
- Happy Slap - youtubing physical violence
- IRC (Internet Relay Chat) -real-time conversation
- Phising - illegal data secure for fraud or other mischief
- Outing - Displaying private remarks / factual or false
- Text Wars - flooding images and texts on network
- Trolling - Enticements to gain certain favors

# # 1- Social Harassment

- Victim - One student - Louis G.
- Perpetrator - a group of five schoolmates
- Nature of event - bashboard attacks on facebook and twitter
- Adult intervention - school offered to intervene
- Consequences - verbal warning to offending students
- Final Outcome- Subsided after five months

# # 2- Hate Crime Category

- Victims - Haitians versus Dominicans
- Perpetrators - Hate Crimes based on culture/ethnicity
- Nature of events - text wars , happy slaps , bashboards, flaming and planned physical fights
- Adult Interaction -school, local police, state police and district attorney's office
- Consequences - 18 court appearances
- Final Outcome - Still under federal law review

## # 3 -Polling Site Andrea M.

- Victim- One high school student
- Perpetrator - suspected peer
- Nature of Events -”Rate Your Cheerleader Contest” with posted blogs, photos and narratives
- Adult Interaction - school guidance counselor and private investigator
- Consequences-victim was severely depressed and sought external help
- Final Result - Victim took a 3 month leave of school

# # 4 Impersonation - (Phising) Laura

- Victim - one high school student
- Perpetrators - External to school source
- Nature of events - Student contacted for credit card scam
- Adult interaction - Local police
- Consequences- no follow up by police or credit card company - even with a delivery address
- Final outcome - “Valuable lesson learned”

# Case # 5 -Outing Secrets - Steven

- Victim - Bashful HS male
- Perpetrator - "supposed best friend"
- Nature of events - confidential revelation of sexual orientation - followed by posting on social media
- Adult interaction- HS guidance and limited police
- Consequences - extreme depression and social anxiety
- Final Outcome- victim transferred schools



# Major Types of Cyber-Bullying

- Intentional Harassment
- Impersonating (pranking)
- Displaying Private Data
- Creating websites, blogs , polls , etc.
- Delivering taunts and threats
- Adult predatory trolling

# NYS Law on Cyber-Bullying

PL # 7740 - Extension of DASA (Dignity for All Students)

- Each school system should have written policy on cyber-bullying
- Policy should state referral mechanism as well as official reporters
- Should be posted on the local school website
- Sanctions enumerated as much as possible with “elasticity” clause

# Inferences for School Leaders

- Local authorities intervene in cases of actual battery but not typically assault (verbal only)
- Records are needed for either criminal or civil pursuits
- Contact school department attorney in each instance for advice on next steps
- Treat incidences as being most serious with concept of “spiraling” in mind
- Contact and engage parents of both victims and perpetrators in all sequential steps

# Development of LEA Policy

- Definitions
- Reporting Procedures
- Investigation Process
- Keeping Written Records
- Specified Sanctions
- Referral Procedures

# Comparison of Traditional/Cyber

Dimension	Cyber	Traditional
Frequency	Can be constant	Specific instances
Location	Without limit	School/home/local
Ownership	Ambiguous	Usually identifiable
Participants	Could be massive	Limited Antagonists
Spiraling Effect	Interconnects quickly and could go viral	Limited Shelf Life
Prosecution	Very Intricate/costly Developing Laws	Follows School Sanction Protocols

# Potential Intervention and Prosecution Avenues

Agency	Role
School Department	Written Regulations
Local Police	Usually first level filter
State Police	When state laws interplay
District Attorney Office	Determines criminality of case
Private investigator	Can support local case with costs born by clients
Homeland Security	With suspected acts of terrorism