

Cyberbullying Can Be a Crime

A teenager can be accused of a crime from the age of 12.

When someone is accused of a crime, many things might happen. The police may want to talk to them. There might be a trial and consequences. For example, community service, mediation with the victim, a cellphone ban, or meetings with professionals.

Here are some crimes that can be seen as cyberbullying.

Harassment

Someone who fears for their safety or for that of a loved one is likely being harassed.

The following behaviours can be criminal harassment:

- Repeatedly contacting a person or their loved ones.
- Acting in a threatening way towards a person or their loved ones.



Harassing communication

Communicating with someone with the goal of harassing them.

For this to be a crime, there must be many or repeated calls, texts, emails, or DMs.



Threats

Threatening to kill a person or their animal. For example: "I'm going to mess you up."

Threatening to burn, damage, or destroy objects. For example: "I'm going to burn your photos!"

Extortion

Forcing someone to do something to obtain something by way of threats, accusations, or violence.

For example: "Send me more nudes or else I'll send the other photos to your parents."



Sharing intimate photos

Sharing an intimate photo or video of someone without their consent, regardless of their age.

Intimate images or videos include:

- Genitals, breasts, or buttocks.
- Explicit sexual activity.

Child Pornography

(child sexual abuse material or CSAM)

When a child or teen is seen in a photo or video.

It's illegal to view, have, or distribute this material.