



THOMAS R. SUOZZI  
County Executive

# NASSAU COUNTY SPiN

A Crime Prevention Partnership  
SECURITY / POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK



LAWRENCE W. MULVEY  
Commissioner

## Cyber-bullying defined

The [National Crime Prevention Council](#)'s definition of cyber-bullying is "when the Internet, cell phones or other devices are used to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person." Other researchers use similar language to describe the phenomenon.

Cyber-bullying can be as simple as continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender, but it may also include [threats](#), sexual remarks, pejorative labels (i.e., [hate speech](#)), ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact aimed at humiliation. Cyber-bullies may disclose victims' personal data (e.g. real name, address, or workplace/schools) at websites or forums or may pose as the identity of a victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them. Some cyberbullies may also send threatening and harassing emails and instant messages to the victims, while other post rumors or gossip and instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target.

Though the use of sexual remarks and threats are sometimes present in cyber-bullying, it is not the same as sexual harassment and does not necessarily involve [sexual predators](#).

## Cyber-bullying vs. cyber-stalking

StopCyberbullying.org, an expert organization dedicated to internet safety, security and privacy, defines cyberbullying as:

"a situation when a child, tween or teen is repeatedly "tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted" by another child, tween or teen using text messaging, email, instant messaging or any other type of digital technology."

The practice of cyberbullying is not limited to children and, while the behavior is identified by the same definition in adults, the distinction in age groups is referred to as [cyberstalking](#) or [cyberharassment](#) when perpetrated by adults toward adults. Common tactics used by cyberstalkers are to vandalize a search engine or encyclopedia, to threaten a victim's earnings, employment, reputation, or safety.

A pattern of repeated such actions against a target by and between adults constitutes cyberstalking.