

# Cyberbullying... it can be a crime!

**In Canada, teens can be accused of a crime as of the age of 12.**

When someone is accused of a crime, the police may want to meet them, they may have to stand trial and they could face consequences. Ex: having a criminal record, doing community service, etc.

**Here are a few crimes related to cyberbullying.**

## **Criminal harassment (stalking)**

If a person fears for their safety or the safety of someone close to them, the following behaviours may be considered criminal harassment:

- repeatedly communicating with the person or someone close to them,
- behaving in a threatening manner towards the person or someone close to them.



## **Harassing communications**

Communicating with another person in order to harass them is a crime.

For this to be a crime, there must be repeated calls or multiple communications via text messages, e-mail or the Internet.

## **Encouraging suicide**

Encouraging a person to commit suicide is a crime.

Ex: «You should throw yourself off a bridge!»

## **Extortion (blackmail)**

Extortion or blackmail is when a person uses threats, accusations or violence to force someone else to act in a certain way with the intent of obtaining money or anything else.

Ex: "Send me more nudes, or else I'll send the ones I already have to your parents."

## **Making threats**

Threatening to kill or injure a person or an animal belonging to them is a crime.

Ex: "I'm going to break your face!"

It's also a crime to threaten to burn, destroy or damage property.

Ex: "I'm going to come and burn your stuff!"



## **Sharing intimate images**

Sharing an intimate photo or video without the consent of the person in it, regardless of their age, is a crime.

An intimate photo or video is an image that shows

- a person's genitals, breasts or buttocks, or
- an explicit sexual activity.

## **Child pornography**

It is forbidden to take an intimate picture or video of a child or a teen.

It is also forbidden to look at these images, to have them on your computer or cell phone, or to send them to others.

