

IF I AM ARRESTED OR CONVICTED AS A JUVENILE, DOES MY ARREST RECORD OR COURT RECORD GO AWAY WHEN I BECOME AN ADULT?

Not necessarily. It is a common misunderstanding that when youth are arrested or convicted that their record does not follow them into adulthood. A juvenile arrest or conviction can have consequences even when youth become adults.



Even for youth who successfully complete a court diversion program, their arrest may still remain on their record.

This brochure was prepared by the Juvenile Assessment Center of Lee County. It is provided as a general overview of the consequences of a juvenile arrest in the state of Florida as of 2012. It can be downloaded from our webpage at www.jac.sheriffleefl.org/publications.

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Know the Law Consequences to a Juvenile Arrest or Conviction



**Information for youth on the
consequences of a juvenile arrest
and conviction in Florida**

What is “cyberbullying?”

Cyberbullying is when someone uses the internet or other electronic technology to threaten to physically hurt someone else or uses it to cause psychological distress to someone else.

Examples of electronic technology used in cyberbullying include using email, instant messaging, social networking sites, text messages, web sites, gaming sites, blogs, or chat rooms.

Forms of cyberbullying include:

- teasing,
- excluding someone from belonging to a group,
- using words or images to try to intimidate or threaten someone,
- making offensive, rude, vulgar, or cruel insults,
- harassing someone about their sexuality, religion or race,
- disclosing secrets or personal information about someone that embarrasses or humiliates them, or
- stalking someone.

Pretending to be the person who is the target of the bullying or using his or her user access information to send inappropriate messages to others is also a form of cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying at School

Cyberbullying is a violation of the School Board of Lee County’s Code of Conduct for Students when it occurs at school, on a school bus, at a school function, at a school-sponsored program, from a school district computer, or through the school district’s computer network.

Under the public school district’s code of conduct, cyberbullying rises to the level of “harassment” when the bullying behavior:

- places someone in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person,
- places someone in reasonable fear of damage to his or her property,
- substantially interferes with a student’s academic performance, opportunities, or benefits, or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.

Note: Laws prohibiting bullying and harassment in public schools fall under the “Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act” in Florida Statute 1006.147.



What is “cyberstalking?”

A more serious form of cyberbullying is called “cyberstalking.” [Cyberstalking is a crime.](#) “Cyberstalking” is defined in Florida Statute 784.048 under the laws on stalking as follows:

“Cyberstalk means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.”

A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly cyberstalks another person commits the offense of stalking. It is a misdemeanor crime.

However, cyberstalking is a felony crime (a more serious crime) if it involves a “credible threat” or the person who is being targeted is under 16 years of age.

A *credible threat* occurs if the person who is the target of the threat is placed in reasonable fear of his or her safety or that of his or her family member or other person closely associated with that person and the threat is made with the apparent ability to carry out the threat to cause such harm. It does not matter whether the person who made the threat actually intended to carry it out or not.