

## **What is Cyber bullying?**

Cyberbullying refers to bullying that occurs via the use of communications technology, such as social media platforms, but also text messages, apps, chats, emails, and other forms of interaction. When investigating these types of accusations, prosecutors should follow the criteria provided in the legal guidelines for social media communications. Depending on the nature of the bullying, it may be criminal behavior. Cyberbullying may consist of, for instance, harassing or threatening actions, transmitting false information about another person, impersonating someone online, cyberstalking, or sending excessively nasty comments. It is important to remember that evidence of bullying in one location, such as **online**, may be indicative of bullying in another one, such as **offline**, as well as potential further crimes.

Chosen Cyberbullying case: **Amanda Todd Tragedy**

### **Brief Explanation:**

Amanda Todd was born in 1996 in the province of British Columbia, Canada. She used to be a pleasant, sociable young lady with a normal life until cyberbullying started. However, due to the rising intensity of the bullying, she experienced severe depression and anxiety. She was reared by her mother, Carol Todd, who feared that her daughter might get involved in criminal activity in the future. Amanda's death confirmed her mother's darkest dread, and she ultimately committed herself. She could no longer restrain herself. At the time of her death, she was just fifteen years old.

A few years ago, Amanda Todd joined in a video chat session so that she could meet new people, see new faces, and converse with new persons. Someone asked her to flash for him, and she obliged. After that, she ceased communicating with him and resumed her usual life. Finally, after what felt like an age, he located her on Facebook. He threatened to distribute the photograph to everyone if she did not perform for him, stating that he would if she did not. He had to send the messages himself since she hadn't done it, and everyone saw them. The individual responsible for mailing them was a Dutchman. Although the abuse started on Facebook, the Dutch man who approaches her during their video conversation is the most intimidating. She attempted suicide by using bleach, but it just made things more difficult for her. People uploaded photographs of bleach with their comments "She deserves it. I hope she dies". 4 o'clock in the morning, police officers arrived on her door and told her that her images were available online. Some of the bullies were able to get the picture and subsequently post it online with hateful comments.

Amanda was bullied, which made her feel sad and make her think about ending her life. She talked to people on Facebook through the message feature. No one cared about her or tried to help her, so she was left alone. Her parents tried to help by transferring her to a different school, but the bully knew where she was. She was lonely, so her parents moved her to a new school to help. She started cutting herself when things got too hard for her. Amanda's anxiety and depression were very bad for most of her life. She didn't go to school or any other public places because she was afraid. Once, when she could

take it no longer, she tried to kill herself by drinking bleach, but it didn't work. She committed suicide by hanging herself at the end of her life. Her parents were heartbroken and couldn't figure out why their daughter had killed herself. Some kids said they were sorry and wished they had never been meant to her, but other students didn't care (Leslye, W., & Rebekah., 2015).

### **Unique Characteristics of Amanda Story:**

Amanda's description of the abuse she endured highlighted cyberbullying and verbal bullying as the most prevalent kinds of victimization. Cyberbullying is the practice of humiliating others via the use of the Internet. Amanda was exposed to blackmail by an unknown perpetrator, who then distributed images of her naked breast across her school and among her family and friends. Due to this event, Amanda became the target of verbal bullying, which included slurs, insults, and other sorts of verbal abuse. Amanda's tragically short life was a direct result of the bullying she faced, which prompted her to suffer from anxiety, engage in self-injurious behavior, and contemplate suicide (IvyPanda., 2020).

### **Evaluate the extent of which this cybercrime is different than its off-line**

The objective of both the offline and online variants of this approach is to intimidate the victims. In this case, however, it differs from the online version since the guy requested him to post a picture online and then continued to threaten him online. Even when the victim sees her, they are unaware of her identity. On the other hand, it is analogous since in both cases the intent was negative, namely, to frighten her and accuse her of being responsible for a few bad things that made her feel miserable.

However, if it turns out to be offline, she may have already notified her parents about the person in issue, and it may not be difficult to hunt down the individual who was attempting to scare her. It also aids the authorities in apprehending the suspects if she or their parents provide information.

### **Identify and assess issues concerning laws**

In recent years, bullying has become such a prevalent issue that programs and policies have been implemented at all levels of government to counteract it (Maryville., 2018).

- **Federal Law**

As of May 2021, there are no federal laws that specifically target bullying. This basic rule has a significant exception in cyberstalking. Even though there are no federal laws that specifically address cyberstalking, it is considered a criminal violation under existing anti-stalking and harassment regulations.

If bullying is based on an individual's race, national origin, color, gender, age, disability, or religion, it may overlap with other types of oppression, such as discrimination, harassment, and hate crimes. In the case that this overlap occurs, schools receiving federal assistance are obligated to address and find a solution to the harassment.

The Community Relations Service of the United States Department of Justice serves communities with dispute resolution, violence prevention, and the response to hate

crimes and discrimination programs. It is a free and confidential service that offers everything from counselling to assistance with technology concerns. If the harassing conduct persists, the victim(s) might consider filing official complaints with the Department of Education and the Department of Justice of the United States of America.

- **Statutory Statutes**

In each one of the 50 states, anti-bullying law is in effect. Most states have also enacted laws to address cyberbullying. In certain jurisdictions, there are additional regulations governing how schools and their specific districts react to incidences of bullying.

Learn the state-specific norms and regulations by reading about them. Cyberbullying Research Center and StopBullying.gov are two potential places for further information. Additionally, there might be local laws at the state, county, or municipal level. Even if there is nothing else, the great majority of school districts and school rules of conduct ban bullying via language or policy. Priority should be given to researching the many rules and laws issued at the local level in your area.

**Identify and assess issues concerning burden of proof, standards of proof and admissibility**

As of this morning, after nine weeks of evidence before the British Columbia Supreme Court in New Westminster, the Crown Counsel representing Aydin Coban in the "sextortion" trial involving Port Coquitlam student Amanda Todd has rested their case (August 2). Louise Kenworthy, the main prosecution, told Justice Martha Devlin and the 12-person jury that it would be "ridiculous" to believe that anybody other than Mr. Coban was in charge. Kenworthy added that there is so much proof against the Dutch national that it would be "absurd" to believe that anybody else was responsible.

Kenworthy mentioned various things and pieces of information seized by the police from a rented property in the Netherlands at the end of her closing arguments. She maintains that these things and pieces of evidence conclusively link him to the crimes. Coban, 44 years old, has pleaded not guilty to the following charges: Harassment, extortion, importation and distribution of child pornography, possession of child pornography, and communication with the intent to entice a minor are prohibited. There is no evidence to substantiate any of the accusations, as determined by the court.

Kenworthy said in her arguments that the Dutch National Police seized a device on January 13, 2014, the day Coban was arrested, and that the device had a termination notice in Coban's name. Specialists in forensic policing identified connections to identities that Kenworthy said Coban had created and used to communicate and webcam with Todd on other machines. Another device seized had a letter of employment from Coban's employer and bank statements from ING under his name. In addition, the folder path names on this device were like those used on other devices. Kenworthy reported that the

devices' communications were sent in English, Dutch, and Turkish. A buddy of Coban's said that Coban spoke each of these three languages with him.

## References

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