

## **Subject: Harassment and bullying...What to do?**

First, if there are any marks on the child or injuries, take the child to a doctor or emergency room to get them documented.

Second, take that documentation to the police station.

Third, [or first, if there are no physical injuries to the child] contact the school and ask for a copy of their Anti-Bullying Policy. She told me that during in late 2003, all schools received a copy of Ohio School Climate Guidelines and were to establish anti-bullying policies within their buildings. These policies should include what happens to the students who are doing the bullying and the teachers who let it occur in their classrooms. Unfortunately, different interpretations and perceptions of the severity of the bullying may still present road-blocks to parents trying to protect their children. The Ohio Department of Education published an Anti-bullying Policy in 2004.

Fourth, If the bullying and harassment is "interwoven" with special education issues, the phone call should go to Ann Cooper-Guinan at the Office for Exceptional Children.

If the bullying and harassment is not related to special education issues, the communication goes through ODE and their contract with the Ohio Resource Network for Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities. Staci Kelts is the ODE "expert" in the area of "bullying." Andrea Barker is the director of the Resource Network. The Ohio Resource Network for Safe and Drug-Free Schools is housed at the University of Cincinnati and has a hotline available 24/7. The number is (513) 556-0440. The hotline is typically answered by a "live operator." If a caller finds an answering device and leaves a message, the call will be returned quickly, at the most within 24 hours.

Other information such as a FAX and 800 number is available on the Network's website: [ebasedprevention.org](http://ebasedprevention.org)

When you go to the website home page, scroll down to the very bottom of the page...under the blue bar. You will see some print in a very light gray color...almost looks like a shadow...it is the contact information. This is the only place you will find this very important information.

Hope this helps.