Professional. Assess the damage. If your child's emotional response is extreme, contact school or law enforcement officials. Social media platforms offer options to report a user or flag inappropriate content. Use tools like site blockers and privacy settings as extra layers of protection. Immediately block (or “unfriend”) the abuser. Use the built-in safety applications that social media sites offer. Let them know it’s okay to feel whatever they are feeling. Acknowledge their feelings. Ask questions. Pay attention. Look for signs of cyberbullying, like spending more time online or texting, hiding the screen from others, emotional interactions can be monitored and actions can be taken if the children feel about it. Find out if they’ve responded to the bully, and what that response was. Cut off communication with the predator. Seek professional help for your child, as appropriate. Report the activity to website administrators and law enforcement. Save screenshots or copies of messages and images of bully interactions. Never share personal information online. Apologize to the kids they’ve hurt, and help them do it. If your child sets up new email or social media accounts, monitor. Make sure kids know not to click on things or open attachments from unknown senders. Talk about proper online etiquette, including how to spot it. Explain that online bullies can act friendly at first, but also encourage your kids to break the ice. Have a plan in place in case your kid does get bullied online, learn what the consequences for violating those laws. If a state has a law proposed, partial points were determined based on the total points, with higher points earning higher grades. A grade of A means the state has strong online safety laws, a grade of B means the state’s laws are a step in the right direction, and a grade of C means the state has a long way to go. Each grade is broken down into three components: prevent, protect, and respond. Prevent includes laws that prevent cyberbullying and sexting. Protect includes laws that protect children from online predators. Respond includes procedures and methods for dealing with instances of cyberbullying and sexting. To grade each state, SafeWise looked at laws for both sexting and cyberbullying. A state can receive points in each area in addition to partial points if a state has a partial law or if a state has a proposed law. State-by-State Online Safety Laws

Steps to Take if Your Child is the Bully

• Blame your child.
• Restore a sense of safety.
• Help your child sort out their feelings.
• Find the source of the content.
• Never share personal information online.

How Much Is Your State Doing to Prevent, Protect, and Respond?

How to How to

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State Safety Score

Table 1: State Safety Score

react/police

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