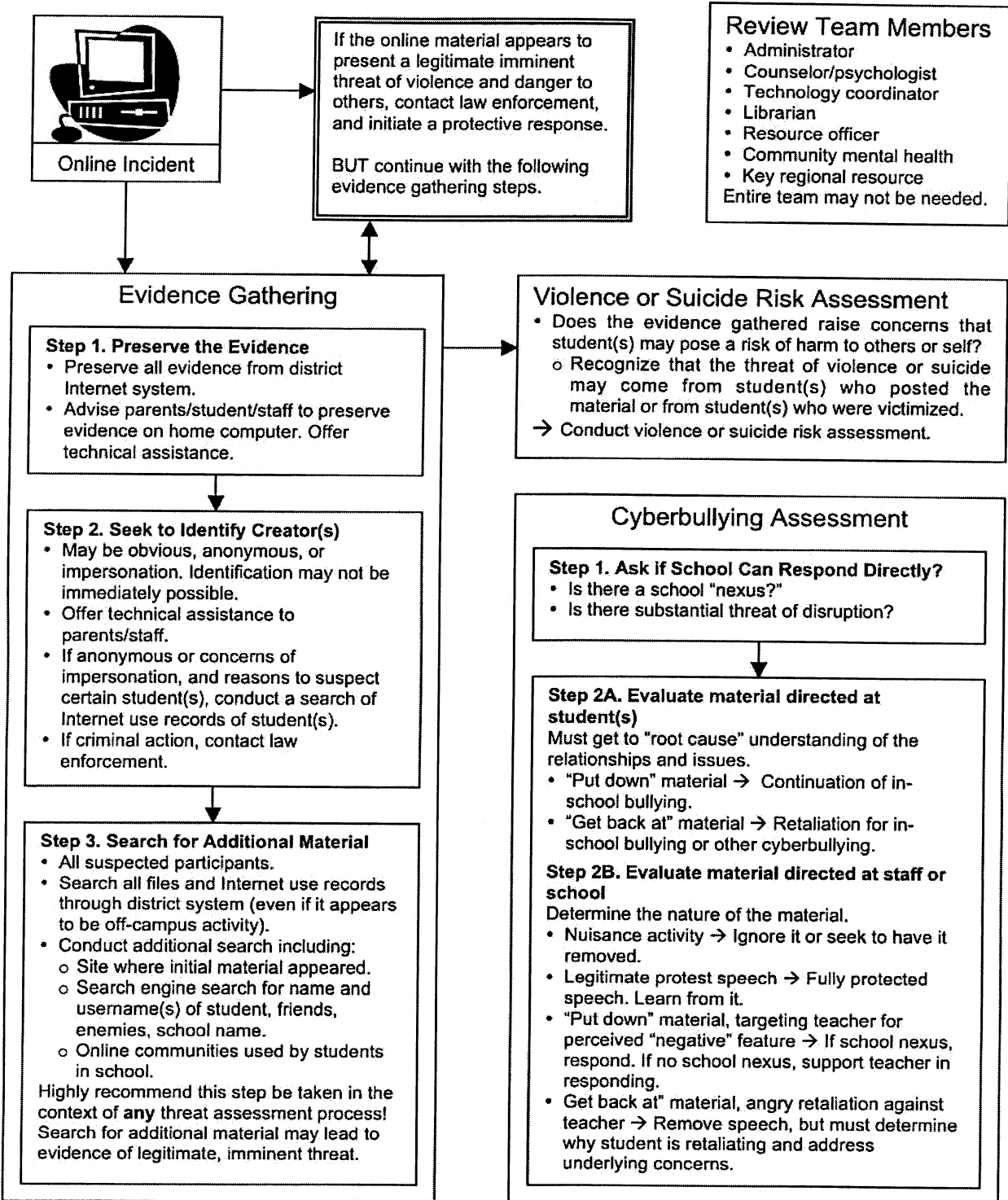


## Cyberbullying or Cyberthreat Situation Review Process



## School Actions and Options

### Formal Disciplinary Action

Can impose formal disciplinary response if have established a school nexus and substantial and material disruption. But still need to address:

- Removal of materials and potential of retaliation by student or online "buddies."
- If "put down" cyberbully stop all in-school bullying. If "get back at" cyberbully, stop all in-school victimization.
- Support needs of target.

If cannot impose formal discipline, other action options still available.

### Working With Parents

#### Child who is "Put Down" Cyberbully

##### Assumptions

- Parents unaware, but actions are against family values.
- Initial response will be disbelief, followed by anger and humiliation.
- Parents naïve about strategies to manage Internet use.

##### Process

- Send downloaded material and *Parent's Guide* to parents via certified mail.
- Request meeting following day.
- Seek parental commitment to:
  - Establish prohibitions.
  - Prevent retaliation.
  - Install and use monitoring software.
  - Limit student's access through other venues.

*Increased potential for financial liability through civil litigation is a strong leverage.*

#### Child who is Target, "Get Back At" Cyberbully, or Who Has Posted Distressing Material

- Parent could approach school or school could find out from other source.
- Initial response of parents will be significant concern for safety and well-being of child.
- If contacting parent about reported concern, establish preliminary plan of action for support prior to meeting with parents.
- If working with parent of "get back at" cyberbully or student who has posted distressing material:
  - Ensure material is removed.
  - Install and use monitoring software.
  - Address underlying bullying or emotional concerns.
- If working with parents of target:
  - Explain limitations on formal response.
  - Use appropriate Response Options to stop/remove harmful material.
  - Warn to watch for retaliation.

### Working with Students

#### Working with Student Who is Target

##### Addiction

- Address concerns of addiction to harmful online community.
  - Convince target to leave community.
  - Find way to get the cyberbullying to stop within the community.

##### Online Bully-Proofing

- Communications are preserved, so student and counselor can evaluate and determine patterns of communication that may be precipitating bullying.
- Impact of harmful communication is invisible if target does not immediately respond.
- Delay in communications can provide opportunity for target to calm down and respond with strength.

#### When to Ask for Help

Encourage students to tell an adult if:

- They are really upset and not sure what to do.
- The cyberbullying could be a crime.
- Any cyberbullying is or might be through the Internet of cell phone at school.
- They are being bullied by the same person at school.
- The cyberbully is anonymous.
- The cyberbully is bullying other teens who may be more vulnerable.

#### Parent/Student/Staff Response Options

- Challenge the cyberbully to stop.
- Ignore the cyberbully.
- File a complaint.
- Have the parents contact the cyberbully's parents.
- Contact an attorney.
- Contact the police.

Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use  
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