

News introduced by the Law 71/2017

1. Identikit of a cyberbully (art. 1)

For the first time a precise definition of cyberbullying has been introduced in our law system :
“Cyberbullying is every kind of pressure, aggression, harassment, blackmailing, denigration, defamation, identity theft, falsification, manipulation, acquisition or illegal processing of personal information that is performed through electronic or digital media by individuals against under age youths. It includes publishing content on the Internet (also concerning members of one’s family) with the precise intent of isolating the under age youth through severe abuse, causing him or her damage through personal attacks or by pouring ridicule”.

2. Role of the cyberbullying teacher representative (art. 4)

Every school appoints a cyberbullying teacher representative, specifically trained, to coordinate prevention initiatives and programs to combat this phenomenon, with the help of the police force and of the local youth associations. She or he would also support the Headmaster in handling cases of cyberbullying with the intervention of the police force.

3. Removing or blocking contents (art. 2)

For under age youths who are older than 14 - and not only for their parents - there is the possibility to force the website operator, or the digital media to block the access or to remove the harmful contents from the Internet. If this isn’t done within 48 hours, they can submit their reports or claims to the Italian Data Protection Authority (Garante per la protezione dei dati personali) that will ensure respect for individuals' dignity within the next 48 hours.

4. Warning (art 7)

In case there’s a victim of online threatening, of insults or whose personal data have been illegally processed and there’s no official report to the police or law suit, the under age youth, aged between 14 and 18, who is accountable for these actions will be admonished by the Police Superintendent, together with his parents, who will warn him or her to behave on accordance with the law and could also ensure specific measures which will continue to apply until the age of 18 years.