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Missouri Mom Indicted In MySpace Cyber-Bullying, Suicide Case

The social networking site cooperated with authorities and is named as a victim in the case.

By [K.C. Jones](#)
InformationWeek

May 15, 2008 05:49 PM

A federal grand jury has indicted a mother on charges relating to harassment on MySpace, which preceded a 13-year-old girl's suicide.

The indictment, returned Thursday in Los Angeles, marks the first time that a social networking site user has been prosecuted on federal charges related to accessing protected computers.

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Lori Drew, 49, of O'Fallon, Mo., has been charged with one count of conspiracy and three counts of accessing protected computers without authorization to obtain information to inflict emotional distress on a 13-year-old girl, Megan Meier. Because of juvenile privacy rules, the victim -- who killed herself after receiving taunts on MySpace -- is referred to in the indictment only as M.T.M.

Prosecutors said Drew posed as a teenage boy who feigned romantic interest in the victim. The "boy" later told the girl during an online chat in October 2006 that the world would be a better place without her. Less than an hour later, Meier hanged herself. She died the next day.

Court documents state that Drew and others registered as a member of MySpace under the name "Josh Evans" and flirted with Meier for about four weeks.

Once Meier believed she was having an online romance with a 16-year-old boy, Drew and her co-conspirators broke off the relationship.

"This adult woman allegedly used the Internet to target a young teenage girl, with horrendous ramifications," U.S. Attorney Thomas P. O'Brien said while announcing the indictment. "After a thorough investigation, we have charged Ms. Drew with criminally accessing MySpace and violating rules established to protect young, vulnerable people. Any adult who uses the Internet or a social gathering Web site to bully or harass another person, particularly a young teenage girl, needs to realize that their actions can have serious consequences."

Prosecutors said Drew and her co-conspirators violated MySpace's "terms of service," which are mandatory for creating an account. They prohibit people from using fraudulent registration information; using accounts to obtain personal information about juvenile members; using the MySpace communication services to harass, abuse, or harm other members; and promoting false or misleading information.

"Whether we characterize this tragic case as 'cyberbullying,' cyberabuse, or illegal computer access, it should serve as a reminder that our children use the Internet for social interaction and that technology has altered the way they conduct their daily activities," Salvador Hernandez, assistant director in charge of the FBI in Los Angeles, said in a news announcement. "As adults, we must be sensitive to the potential dangers posed by the use of the Internet by our children."

Drew is scheduled to appear in court in June. If convicted, she faces up to five years in federal prison on the conspiracy count, and up to five years on each count of accessing protected computers for the purpose of


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intentionally inflicting emotional distress on Meier.

Investigators in Los Angeles pursued the case because MySpace's servers are located there. The social networking site cooperated with authorities and is named as a victim in the case.

Drew has also been the victim of cyberbullying since news of her alleged actions became public.



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23 message(s). Last at: May 30, 2008 11:52:27 AM

Rachel A

commented on May 30, 2008 11:52:27 AM

megan rip and to her family im srry for your loss

Rachel A

commented on May 30, 2008 11:49:53 AM

I think what she did was horrible she deserves everything she gets from this i have been bullied my self and been suicidal so i can comfide with megan i give her family all the support i can DREW BURN IN HEII

WANK

commented on May 22, 2008 8:47:28 AM

WANK HEAD
Stupid girl commiting suicide.

hhhhhh

commented on May 16, 2008 12:41:47 PM

lets be real here.. what kind of dumba\$\$ older woman would try to mess with a thirteen year old girl?? She should be locked up for being so inappropriate and a str8 up f---king idiot, let alone clearly leading a pointless wasteful life ... Why else would she get into something like this? She should be slapped repeatedly for this in public- and get ready to be taken with a broomstick by Big Mama in the slammer.

Algonquian_Cougar

commented on May 16, 2008 12:05:05 PM

....It's good that they are finally realizing all that these type of Criminally insane people like Drew are doing, and this the initial step into holding them responsible. As far as a new law, as you see the laws already on the books did the job. Yet most sorrowful that it took a young child's life to gain the appropriate attention. I believe that if "Us" the Citizen believe that these type criminals are not getting severe enough penalties. Then yes, the Cyber Bully law should reflect that in it's completion (of the new law needed of which you speak). But only writing your congress Women and Men will do that.

... If you hadn't noted it from what I said above. Though not all results of these actions of this type dysfunctional criminal create such a tragic ending. They do create a lot of harm of many varities. As that is their goal. This what they use to build a false self-esteem. This of control and power bagage they carry. This getting into the hardest portion to report. There are many of this type people doing this on a daily basis. Stalking, Harrasing, Slandering, with use of Malicious Code, where they do attempt to extort people to do as they wish.

... I know personally of this as I have 6 such criminal's perpatrating this type harrassment, slanders, use of malicious code, stalking, extortion towards others who choose to speak or be a friend to me. This even into the point where they attempt to blame me for the malicious coding they are using against those at hand. Luckily I had been recording and reporting their use towards me long before they started playing spin doctor. Also to the point of proving my innocents if need be. This a case with the FBI since July of last year. This where I see the FBI dragging their feet. As in two years of recording this Computer and Network forensics attempting to get to the point of Law Enforcement envolved. It was the last few weeks before it made it out of my ISP to the local State Police Cyber Crime Unit last year. This where 2 of these original 6 actually started harrassing phone calls. There in, me gaining a point of reference of who for law enforcement. This as they had previously been recorded by me when stating in a chat room their threats, slanders, and abuses of what they were going to do to me. This matching the recordings on the answering machine. These points turned into my Home ISP and State Police.

... These people all previously turned into Yahoo Abuse departments. Yahoo to date has done nothing. These who perpetrate these practices still using their same ID's which they have many , without loosing a single.

...The situations in all this gets much deeper then stated here that has a history which goes all the way back to 2000-2001 with 15 that I turned the forensics in on to FedCirc due to Yahoo's lack of keeping with it's own TOS. Within two weeks FedCirc Founded my Forensics, within a year every one of the Malicious Coding Cyber Bullies had disappeared from the internet. I believe it safe to assume they were arrested and convicted.

...Due to the FBI not moving on this case yet, and the point of 4 months ago one of the 6 from Southern California making death threats and giving dates when he would show up here. The State Police were reinvolved, now with the department of State Police's BCI. I am currently waiting for a call back from the Investagator handling the case. His Commander and himself came here to my home when they first became envolved with the case at the point of the death threats. This thru complications arising between myself amd my ISP over these matters

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