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## Teens Use MySpace for Revenge

### Misuse of MySpace by Teens

By **SkyeDanzer**

MySpace is a very popular place for users to create personal web pages. Teens are no exception to taking advantage of this free web hosting service. Teens go online at MySpace to create blogs, share pictures and write messages to each other. The problem arises when teens use MySpace to get revenge on other teens.

Pictures are popular for everyone. Many people do not realize that pictures can be used for revenge. Teens are friends with classmate and then tensions mount and the friendship ends. During the friendships, pictures may have been taken that would be embarrassing. What seem like innocent or funny pictures to the rest of the world can have a devastating effect on a teen that is the subject of those pictures.

By the time a complaint is filed, it is too late for the teen that was plastered all over a MySpace page. In other words the process of getting the pictures removed takes time. In the meantime the subject of the pictures is embarrassed and upset. The ex-friend has been able to use MySpace to get revenge.

Another way that teens are using MySpace is to use blog entry posts to get even with ex-friends. Secrets, personal information and flat out lies are posted on blog entries about the target teen. Rumors get started in the school by other classmates that have seen the blog entries. While the subject of the revenge is waiting for help from MySpace the damage has already been done. It is difficult to prove that something on MySpace or any other personal web page is slander and libel or malicious makes it even tougher for the teen being ridiculed.

If the people are friends with one another on MySpace, messages can be sent back and forth between users. Groups of teens make MySpace accounts and befriend a teen that they wish to target. The target teen accepts the friends without realizing that they are being set up as a target. The end result is the target teen receiving hate mail from the other teens. Even if accounts get banned and frozen, the target teen is still harassed and feels the emotional result of the teens using MySpace for revenge.

There is really no good solution to the problem of teens using MySpace for revenge. You can encourage your teen not to participate in such activities. Most of the time parents do not know that it is happening until the damage is already done. You can ban your teen from setting up a MySpace account and encourage them to tell you if they hear of rumors at school that were started by peers who use MySpace.

It has been reported that MySpace is a feeding ground for internet predators. Now, teens are using MySpace to target other teens for revenge. These are two very strong reasons to discourage teens from having MySpace accounts.

***Joyce Priddy has other articles published on Associated Content. Please click her name above the start of this article to view her other work.***

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