



Watch OUT for the Three Strikes Law

What is the Three Strikes Law?

Another problem with bullying is California's Three Strikes Law—some actions you take as a bully are crimes and can count as a “strike”, leading to greater punishments each time you commit another crime:

- ⇒ **The Three Strikes Law punishes repeat offenders.** After just one *strike*, you can get stricter and longer sentences each time you are convicted of another crime—even if it is a non-violent or non-serious crime.
- ⇒ If you get three strikes in your life, you can get sentenced to a minimum of **25 years to life in state prison.**
- ⇒ Strikes cannot be sealed or cleared from your record.



How old do I have to be to get a *strike*?

You can get a strike starting at **age 16!**

What are some examples of strike crimes?

- ⇒ Many kinds of assault
- ⇒ Robbery with a weapon
- ⇒ Arson
- ⇒ Discharge of a firearm in an occupied building
- ⇒ Making or selling drugs



GET HELP! Resources and Information

Where can I get help or more information?

- ⇒ **The Dean's Office** — The Dean has to investigate your complaint and write a report with the school's findings and the actions the school will take to stop the harassment.
- ⇒ **The Wellness Center** — The counselors will listen to your problem, keep it confidential, and talk to you about what you can do. Visit: <http://www.sfwellness.org/>
- ⇒ **Peer Resources** — Here, you can find another student who will listen to your problems and who will find a way to help you. The student also may mediate the problem between you and the other person. Learn more about programs like the Health Promotion Committees at: <http://www.healthiersf.org/Programs/ps-highSchoolHealthPromoCom.html>
- ⇒ **San Francisco Peer Court** — Get justice in an alternative community court run by students. For more information, visit www.peercourt.org.
- ⇒ **Community Resources at school or in the community** — Community organizations that can help you. (i.e. United Playaz, H.O.M.E.Y., Community Response Network (CRN), Community Youth Center, etc.) For more information call (415)554-8419 or visit: <http://resources.sfayan.org/>
- ⇒ **Youth Line** — You can talk with someone your own age, 4pm to 10pm, 7 days a week at this toll-free number: **1-888-977-3399** Or you can anonymously IM with someone on-line at: www.youthlinesf.org.
- ⇒ **California Youth Crisis Hotline** — This is a toll-free confidential line where trained volunteers can help you. Open 24 hours a day! **1-800-662-8887**
- ⇒ **Safe School Line** — An anonymous complaint line ran by San Francisco School District.
Go Online: www.sfusd.edu
Call: (415) 241-2141
E-MAIL: safeschool@sfusd.edu

Asian Law Caucus

55 Columbus Avenue
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Phone: (415) 896-1701
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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



THE VIOLENCE

Bullying & Harassment in School





You Have Rights!

What should I do if I'm being harassed?

If someone is harassing you, here are some ways to stop it:

⇒ **Walk away.**

Calmly and quickly leave the situation, especially if you are in physical danger.

What is harassment?

Harassment includes name calling, violence, threats or making unwelcome sexual advances. You should never have to put up with harassment from anyone. In fact, you have a right to NOT be harassed.

⇒ **Resist the urge to argue or fight back.**

Fighting back makes the situation worse and could lead to someone getting very hurt or getting in trouble with the police.

⇒ **Stay calm and ask for help from an adult.** If the first person you talk to is not listening, talk to someone else.

⇒ **File a complaint with your school.** Talk to your principal, counselor, or teacher. Keep a record of all complaints you make: When did you complain? To whom? Any witnesses to the incident?

What should I ask from the school?

⇒ If you want, you can ask the school keep secret that you reported the problem,

⇒ Ask to be separated from the other student,

⇒ Ask to have a teacher or counselor to monitor your safety,

⇒ Schedule regular check-ins with an adult you trust at the school to discuss any problems that might come up,

⇒ Consider asking the school to provide a mediator. This is a neutral person who hears from both sides and tries to come up with a fair agreement that works for everyone.

What should I do if I am a VICTIM of BULLYING?

How can I get help if I'm being harassed?

- **Tell an adult you can trust**—This can be a parent, a teacher, the dean, a school counselor — any adult who will listen to your problem may be able to help you.
- **Report the problem to a teacher, counselor or other staff person** —
 - ⇒ The school staff person must report your complaint to the principal within 24 hours. Even if you just verbally report a complaint, the principal still has to investigate the complaint.
 - ⇒ The school must then complete an investigation within 10 working days and write a report describing the actions taken by the school to end the harassment and to prevent it from happening again.

How do I report harassment and bullying?

You can file a written complaint at the school, district, or federal level:

⇒ **Safe School Line** — This is an *anonymous* complaint line ran by San Francisco School District with 3 ways for you to report incidents of harassment and violence:

1. **Go Online:** www.sfusd.edu
2. **Call:** (415) 241-2141
3. **E-MAIL:** safeschool@sfusd.edu

⇒ **Write a complaint to School District** —

Print out the complaint form at <http://orb.sfusd.k12.ca.us/forms/equity/UniformComplaintForm.doc>, fill it out, and give it to your school district's "Compliance Coordinator."

⇒ **Report to U.S. Department of Education** — You can submit a complaint on-line with the U.S. Dept. of Education at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/>.



If you are a BULLY, STOP!

How do I know if I'm being a bully?

If you are hurting another person through your words or actions over and over again, you are being a bully and may be guilty of harassment, battery, assault, a hate crime, or even gang activity.



THINK BEFORE YOU ACT: Beating up another person can count as a strike against you (assault), leading to jail or prison time. **DO NOT respond to violence with more violence.**



What can happen to me if I'm being a bully?

If you have been harassing someone, you should know that you can get into

serious trouble. Anyone, even a witness or bystander, can file a complaint with a teacher, counselor, the dean, or even the police against you for discrimination and harassment.

- ⇒ Counseling
- ⇒ Mediation (ask for this, this is available in some situations)
- ⇒ Suspension,
- ⇒ Expulsion, and/or
- ⇒ Jail or prison time, depending on the seriousness of your actions.



REMEMBER: You must file your complaint within 6 months of the incident!