

**Illinois State Bar Association
2008 High School
Mock Trial Invitational**

People v. Dixon

As amended December 20, 2007



Illinois State Bar Association
Mock Trial Office

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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LINCOLN COUNTY
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
 Prosecution)
)
) Case No. 2007 424
)
)
Kim Dixon,)
 Defendant)
)

This is a fictional case. None of the characters in this mock trial are real. Any similarities to actual events are unintentional. These materials may be reproduced without permission for classroom or educational use.

Witnesses for the Prosecution:

Criss Lyman, alleged victim of bullying
Britt Green, community DARE police officer
Dr. Terry Potter, psychologist

Witnesses for the Defense:

Kim Dixon, alleged bully
Robin Dwight, friend of Kim Dixon
Dr. Blair Graham, school social worker

Criss Lyman will testify that he/she has been a victim of bullying since entering the school district as a transfer student during seventh grade and continuing through his/her junior year.

Britt Green, community DARE police officer, will testify as to the vandalism to Criss's car and questioning of Kim Dixon about the crime. Green will also testify that he/she has visited Criss's school and has spoken often about bullying.

Dr. Terry Potter, psychologist, has examined Criss Lyman and is an expert on childhood psychology, and has experience in treating those who have been bullied and treating bullies as well.

Kim Dixon, the alleged bully, will testify that most of what was done to Criss Lyman was good natured and that Criss Lyman is afraid of his/her own

shadow. Dixon accepts responsibility for breaking Lyman's arm, but as an unfortunate accident.

Robin Dwight, friend of Kim Dixon, will add that Kim would never intentionally hurt anyone. Robin will state that Kim likes to have things his/her own way and is sometimes ill tempered, but Robin insists that any teasing that may have occurred was good natured and not meant to harm.

Dr. Blair Graham, school social worker and clinical psychologist, will testify that Kim has been a good student with no complaints against him/her on the school records. Dr. Graham will testify that Criss Lyman never sought school counseling assistance, never reported any instances of bullying, and that the school has a policy against bullying that stresses the importance of reporting problems.

Stipulations:

1. All affidavits are accurate and may not be disputed at trial.
2. Kim Dixon was 17 years old when he/she broke Criss Lyman's arm and is being tried as an adult.

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LINCOLN COUNTY
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS)	
Prosecution)	Case No. 2007 424
)	
v.)	
)	INDICTMENT
Kim Dixon,)	
Defendant.)	
)	

The Grand Jury, in and for the County of Lincoln, State of Illinois, upon their oath and in the name and by the authority of the State of Illinois, does hereby charge the following offenses under the Criminal Code of the State of Illinois:

That on March 23, 2007, at and within the County of Lincoln in the State of Illinois, defendant, Kim Dixon committed the crime of

Count I

RECKLESS CONDUCT

In that the defendant, Kim Dixon, did, on March 23, 2007, recklessly perform an act which caused bodily harm to Criss Lyman.

Count II

BATTERY

In that the defendant, Kim Dixon, did, on March 23, 2007, intentionally or knowingly cause bodily harm to Criss Lyman, contrary to the Law and against the peace and dignity of the People of the State of Illinois.

Count III

AGGRAVATED BATTERY

In that the plaintiff, Criss Lyman, was, on March 23, 2007, committed battery, intentionally or knowingly causing great bodily harm, or permanent disability of disfigurement on or about a public way, public property, or public place of accommodation or amusement.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2007 A TRUE BILL:

State's Attorney

Foreperson of the Grand Jury

[For mock trial purposes, you should try to prove the greatest offense possible.]

JURY INSTRUCTIONS
AND
STATUTES

Illinois Pattern Jury Instructions - Criminal

Reckless Conduct:

11.37 Definition of Reckless Conduct:

A person commits the offense of reckless conduct when he recklessly performs any act which causes bodily harm to another person.

A person (is reckless) (acts recklessly) when he consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that circumstances exist or that a result will follow, and such disregard constitutes a gross deprivation from the standard of care which a reasonable person would exercise in the situation.

11.38 Issue in Reckless Conduct

To sustain a charge of reckless conduct, the State must prove the following proposition: That the defendant recklessly performed an act which caused bodily harm to Criss Lyman.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that this proposition has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you should find the defendant guilty.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that this proposition has not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you should find the defendant not guilty.

Battery:

11.05 Definition of Battery

A person commits the offense of battery when he intentionally, or knowingly and without legal justification, and by any means, causes bodily harm to another person.

11.06 Issue in Battery

To sustain the charge of battery, the State must prove the following proposition: That the defendant knowingly ~~and~~ or intentionally caused bodily harm to Criss Lyman.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that this proposition has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you should find the defendant guilty.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that this proposition has not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you should find the defendant not guilty.

Aggravated Battery:

11.13 Definition of Aggravated Battery--Great Bodily Harm

A person commits the offense of aggravated battery when he intentionally, knowingly and without legal justification, and by any means causes great bodily harm or permanent disability to another person on or about a public way, public property, or public place of accommodation or amusement.

11.14 Issue in Aggravated Battery--Great Bodily Harm

To sustain the charge of aggravated battery, the State must prove the following proposition: That the defendant intentionally and knowingly caused great bodily harm or permanent disability to a person in a public place.

Note: some of the language may differ (for mock trial purposes) from the actual Illinois Pattern Jury Instructions.

**Illinois Compiled Statutes/Criminal Offenses
Criminal Code of 1961 720 ILCS 5/**

ARTICLE 12. BODILY HARM

(720 ILCS 5/12-3) **Sec. 12-3. Battery.**

- (a) A person commits battery if he intentionally or knowingly without legal justification and by any means, (1) causes bodily harm to an individual or (2) makes physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with an individual.
- (b) Sentence. Battery is a Class A misdemeanor.

(720 ILCS 5/12-4) **Sec. 12-4. Aggravated Battery.**

- (a) A person who, in committing a battery, intentionally or knowingly causes great bodily harm, or permanent disability or disfigurement on or about a public way, public property, or public place of accommodation or amusement commits aggravated battery.
- (e) Sentence. Aggravated battery is a Class 3 felony.

720 ILCS 5/12-5) **Sec. 12-5. Reckless conduct.**

- (a) A person who causes bodily harm to or endangers the bodily safety of an individual by any means, commits reckless conduct if he performs recklessly the acts which cause the harm or endanger safety, whether they otherwise are lawful or unlawful.
- (b) Sentence. Reckless conduct is a Class A misdemeanor.

Criss Lyman - Prosecution Witness

1. My name is Criss Lyman and I am a junior at Eastern Lakeview High School. I've been bullied for years. It all ended when I got my arm broken by the bully on Friday, March 23rd. It happened in a school hallway in front of lots of people. It took getting my arm broken for things to finally come to a head and now I am worried that this whole ordeal will backfire, that no one will believe what I've been going through, and that I'll have to go back to school and face Kim Dixon again if this court doesn't do something to straighten things out.

2. I understand horsing around. I understand teasing and good natured name calling, but what I experienced for the past number of years goes beyond anything that could be considered friendly teasing or good natured name calling. Kim Dixon consistently, through junior high and high school, went out of the way to make me feel insecure, intimidated, excluded and victimized.

3. I think it all started, in fact I know it did, when I transferred to the Eastern Lakeview school district as a seventh grade student. My parents are military. We travel a lot and have lived in about five different places during my lifetime. Some of those places have been great, others have been less exciting. No matter where my family has been located, I've gone to either military base schools or local schools and have had little or no trouble fitting in. I have quite a few friends from other states and countries that I e-mail, write to and visit, but no one wants to hang around with me here, and that's all because of Kim Dixon. I usually make friends quite easily, or I did until I came to this district. Once I became Kim Dixon's target for bullying, I found it much harder to make or keep friends. Everyone has been afraid to be around me. During this school year and last, my parents have been deployed to Iraq. I've been living with my grandmother, who has been wonderful through all of this.

4. I look quite average. I am a good student, but not exceptional. The only thing that I can think of that makes me at all different from the students here is that I have traveled quite a bit. I'm still considered an outsider, even though we've lived in this area for some years now. I didn't go to grade school with all these kids so I guess I don't have much of a shared history. But that didn't seem to hurt me in the other places we've lived.

5. Thinking back, there were some things that may have made me seem different. I realized quite young that spending quality time with my parents was important to me. They are away so often that when we are all together, it's special. So, they would often walk me to school, or drive me to school and we'd sit and talk before I'd go into the school buildings. I think other kids may have found this odd. And, once in awhile, I'd wear something of my Mom or Dad's to

school, like one of their military shirts or one of their hats. This may have set me apart. I think I'm the only military kid at this school right now.

6. Since seventh grade, I've been in various classrooms with Kim Dixon and Robin Dwight. Kim has always had something against me. Kim seemed to have taken an instant dislike to me. I remember the first day I was introduced in class, Kim laughed out loud at my name. Since then, I've been plagued by name calling, which didn't bother me when that's all it was, but if you add in all the other things that Kim has done or instigated, it's pretty bruising.

7. My family name is Lyman. I've been called all kinds of names throughout the years based on the fact that some of the kids think I'm too close to my parents. Nothing really awful, but like I said, it all adds up. The list of things Kim, specifically, has done and said is a long one.

8. It started, as I said, in seventh grade. I was called names, pushed in hallways, had my hair pulled daily, got locked in restrooms, had my nose bloodied countless times and school trips were a nightmare on the bus. I had to sit directly behind the driver for protection and had things thrown at me constantly. I had books stolen and homework ruined by Kim and Kim's friend Robin, who never really joined in, but always was there watching and laughing at Kim's meanness. There was no escape. As a student, it wasn't like there was an option to leave. We weren't ever allowed to leave the gym, lunchroom, hallways, locker rooms or whatever. I felt trapped and afraid.

9. During this school year and last both my parents have been deployed. I've been living with my grandmother. We've always been close as she's taken care of me often when my parents have been out of the country. I told my grandmother about the problems I was having this school year. She was concerned and offered to intervene. My parents had offered to transfer me to a private school in the area, but I know that money would be an issue so I declined. I kept thinking it would end...that Kim would grow out of it. I never made a formal report against Kim. I sort of thought it would make things worse for me. Kim as an angry bully was something I didn't want to think about. My Grandmother has been wonderfully supportive. She helps keep me sane. I don't want my parents to know how bad things have been this year. They have enough to worry about where they are.

10. When my tires were slashed in February and the windows were broken on my car, my Grandmother reported it to the police and mentioned the bullying I'd experienced. She indicated to the police that we thought the person responsible was Kim Dixon. I was so afraid after she did that, I missed three days of school with stomach problems and headaches. I was afraid it made Kim angry we had told the police. Evidently the police showed up at Kim's house, but nothing happened as a result. Officer Green was one of the officers who had come to our home. When my Grandmother told Green about

the bullying, Green was very sympathetic and, as the Community DARE officer, said that maybe something could be done.

11. After Kim's name had been given to the police, I started getting threatening notes, all pasted or taped together. On most days I would be followed home by Kim and Robin, who were sometimes joined by others in their group of friends. None of those friends seemed willing to stop Kim from harassing me. They all seemed a bit afraid of Kim and thought better of crossing him/her. Then some "Here's Lyman" signs started showing up in my locker and on walls in the hallways. They were taken down pretty quickly by the school staff, but they still hurt.

12. A few weeks after the vandalism to my car, Officer Green, the community's DARE police officer, came to our school to do a presentation to the entire school on bullying. I took notes and was the first person up front to ask questions on how to defend myself. Officer Green was sympathetic and helpful. I finally felt like I had someone, other than my parents and Grandmother, who I could trust and who would believe what I was saying. It felt pretty good.

13. There is a long list of humiliating and hurtful things that were done to me as the target of Kim's constant bullying. The hair pulling, name calling, bloody noses, arm twisting, and pushing led to being locked in closets and restrooms so I would be late to class. I had insulting language about me written on my locker. My locker was vandalized, books and homework assignments stolen or my books dumped all over the floor. These weren't once or twice occurrences. They happened daily during some weeks. Sometimes notes would be stuffed into my locker. One recent note said something like "After school. You and me. Let's get bloody." I thought I'd faint when I saw that one. I finally turned that one over to Officer Green when all this came to a head.

14. I began to develop some awful stomach problems as I was trying to decide what to do about the bullying. I knew something had to be done. It wasn't going to stop on its own. I had trouble sleeping. My Grandmother took me to doctors and I was diagnosed as having anxiety issues. My self esteem has suffered and I questioned whatever I was doing. I became timid and afraid to go anywhere without someone I trust with me. I know in my heart that I have a right to an education and the right to feel safe at school, but I don't ever feel safe. I'm pretty much always afraid. Kim has done that to me.

15. I started to obsess about how to end the pattern of Kim's violence toward me. The only options I could think of were pretty much unacceptable. I don't want to harm others the way I've been harmed. I began researching bullying on the Internet and started trying some of the coping skills. I wasn't all that

good at it because nothing seemed to get better. I felt like I had no way to control or affect what was happening to me. So I'm relying on the legal system to force Kim to stop.

16. That's when the worst thing happened...but maybe it's the best thing. Kim grabbed me one day in a hallway outside the cafeteria at school so hard that my arm was broken. ~~It was right before lunch.~~ It was right around noon or a little after. I'd just finished lunch hour. I remember feeling my arm being grabbed from behind and I turned and saw it was Kim. I had a moment of absolute terror and I tried to get away. That's when I heard my arm break. I think that changed things forever. Kim actually looked worried when he/she saw the way my arm was bent. And, there were witnesses. It happened right outside the cafeteria. Officer Green saw the entire thing. Finally, I was able to press formal charges against Kim.

17. In a perfect world, the courts would restrain Kim from getting near me, but I'd also like the courts to demand that Kim undergo some therapy to address the aggressiveness and downright violent nature he/she manifests. An apology would be nice too.

18. I am pretty sure I'm Kim's only target. If I am, I'm glad. At least others are spared this agony. If I'm not the only target, then I'm also glad that something has finally happened to stop all of this. Maybe other lives will be easier if Kim can be stopped. I've heard that some people in situations like mine are suing and asking for damages and restitution for the pain and suffering like I've endured. I'm not going to do that. I just want the violence to stop.

19. One of the hardest things about being a victim has been talking about it. Talking about it makes it so real. And it makes you re-live every embarrassing, hurtful situation. And you're afraid to tattle...really afraid. Tattling could so easily backfire and make things worse. And the last thing I ever wanted was for things to be worse.

20. I heard that Robin is saying that I may have hurt my arm in gym class earlier in the day during volleyball. That's just plain dumb. I did fall, but I rolled onto my other arm, not the arm that Kim grabbed.

Dr. Terry Potter, Psychologist – Prosecution Witness

1. My name is Terry Potter; I hold a Ph.D. in Psychology and am a practicing psychologist. I graduated from the University of Illinois at Springfield, did my masters degree at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and did my Ph.D. at Washington University at St. Louis. I did a residency in Indianapolis at Riley Children's Hospital, and have practiced in this area for the past ten years. I've been in practice for a total of 12 years and have extensive experience with adolescents and teens.
2. My Master's thesis was on the long term effects of bullying, both on the person who is bullied and on the person who is doing the bullying. It was a fascinating research project and in my practice I have found that the conclusions I reached over fifteen years ago were solid. Bullies routinely bully well into adulthood unless there is some sort of intervention. And those who are bullied carry the scars their entire lives.
3. Early in 2007, after the car vandalism incident in February, I was contacted by Criss Lyman's Grandmother who indicated she was concerned about Criss. Mrs. Lyman is caring for Criss while his/her parents are serving in Iraq. This, no doubt, adds to the stress that has been put on Criss.
4. We first met as a family and then I met privately with Criss. While Criss's Grandmother was present, Criss was hesitant to discuss the full extent of what was happening at school; however, after some weeks of regular sessions, Criss opened up and told me about the bullying that had been taking place since late in his/her grade school years. I believe Criss was in seventh grade when the accused began to taunt Criss.
5. Criss showed me pages from the journal he/she had been keeping for some time. Criss used writing as a form of release. The entries were quite revealing. Criss has an adult level comprehension of the effects of bullying and I am quite proud of the way Criss has handled the situation. There are many who would have completely buckled under the stress of such negative attention, and there are those who would have sought to retaliate. Criss has done neither. Criss has avoided confrontation at the expense of his/her social life and has, until very recently, never considered lashing out.
6. Criss's journal also reflects an understandable level of concern over the safety of his/her parents who are out of the country serving in the military. I do not believe that Criss's concern is extreme, out of control, or unnatural in any way. Nothing in the journal entries regarding his/her concern over his/her parents, or expressed during our discussions, would lead me to the conclusion that Criss is manufacturing these bullying accusations to try to bring his/her parents home. That is absolutely groundless.

7. Criss has an uncanny ability to understand the way a bully works and realized early on that confrontation can serve to elevate the severity of the actions taken against the person being bullied. Any aggravation can set the bully off and exacerbate the problem. Criss worked to avoid confrontation, altering schedules, walking different routes to and from class, etc. This was a very adult response to what he/she was going through.

8. Most bullying behavior is done so as not to be detected by authority figures. Thus the fact that Kim has no record of having been seen hurting Criss really isn't surprising. And the fact that Kim is usually surrounded by a friend or friends who outwardly support the actions taken is also part of a profile for bullying. The bully likes an audience. They like to exhibit the power they have over others. It's important to remember that the bully's very presence can be a perceived threat, or a sort of weapon, to the person being bullied.

9. Based on what I have heard from Criss, Kim seems to manifest a number of attributes common to bullies. Kim is action-oriented. That means Kim likes to physically pick on his/her target by pulling hair, pushing, damaging property and the like. Kim also has verbal bullying tendencies, as many of the attacks against Criss were oral. The name calling and teasing are indications that Kim is a verbal bully. And Kim also seems to be what is called a relational bully, in that Kim likes to have witnesses, or an audience, to see how powerful Kim can be when teasing and bullying. Kim has effectively cut Criss off from others in the class because anyone affiliated with Criss could become another target for Kim. Kids understand this at the most primal level.

10. While I have not interviewed Kim and have had no direct contact with him/her, I trust Criss and Criss's Grandmother. The daily journal that Criss keeps is quite revealing and has helped greatly in keeping Criss grounded. Few children lie about being bullied. Criss's experiences are very real and have done great harm to his/her social skills and personal behaviors. Criss has been denied access to friendships during his/her school years because others were afraid to become targets through affiliation. This is so unfortunate, but could be rectified if Kim Dixon gets the help he/she so desperately needs and is able to change.

11. In one of our first sessions, I mentioned to Criss that there are some coping skills for dealing with bullies, Criss wasn't surprised. Criss had been doing some on-line research and had tried many of the techniques I was going to suggest, including avoiding Kim as much as possible, trying to always be near other people, etc. Criss was well aware that he/she needed to change from being vulnerable, or appearing vulnerable, to exhibiting some backbone. However, Criss admitted that this all seemed outside the realm of possibility.

12. When Kim broke Criss's arm at school, right outside of the cafeteria around lunch time or a little after, with witnesses, we had a session at the hospital immediately after Criss's arm was set. Mrs. Lyman called me and I came. Criss was highly agitated and fearful. Even in the safest of settings, a private hospital area with doctors, nurses, and Mrs. Lyman present, Criss was still afraid. After some dialogue, Criss finally said he/she was afraid that it would seem like it was Criss's own fault that the arm was broken. Criss was afraid that Kim would not be blamed. That's when I called Officer Green and asked if it would be possible to come to the hospital to meet with Criss.

13. Officer Green came that same evening and met with Criss, Mrs. Lyman and me. Officer Green assured Criss that a number of witnesses, including Officer Green, had seen what had happened and everyone believed that Kim's grip on Criss and the awkward way that Kim twisted Criss around was what broke the arm, not Criss trying to get away. And, even if Criss's reaction to begin grabbed had aggravated the matter and contributed to the break, it didn't matter. Kim instigated the action and Kim was at fault.

14. Officer Green told Criss that Kim had been arrested and was being charged with battery. Officer Green explained what would probably happen, that Criss may have to testify in court. Criss gave a statement at that time, explaining the bullying that had been going on for years, ending with the breaking of the arm at the school.

15. We are now working to see that Criss doesn't carry the scars from this bullying into his/her adult life. None of us want to see Criss become a timid, retiring adult, afraid to go into new situations. Criss especially wants to be free of the terror that's been overshadowing his/her life for so many years. And, much to Criss's credit, he/she also wants Kim to have help in becoming a better person.

16. Criss agreed to submit a portion of the journal to be reviewed by the court to support his/her claim that the bullying has been on-going for some time. The more personal passages regarding Criss's parents have not been included as they in no way reflect on what Kim Dixon did to Criss. To protect Criss's privacy, I met with him/her to decide what pages to submit. The pages that are available for review are indicative and offer a brief but significant window into Criss's fears.

17. I counsel a number of students from that particular school and many of them have talked about what happened between Criss and Kim. A number of the students feel that Kim is being treated too harshly.

Britt Green, community DARE police officer – Plaintiff Witness

1. My name is Britt Green; I'm the community DARE police officer for the Eastern Lakeview school district. I've been a police officer in this county for about 6 years. I underwent special training to be the DARE officer and enjoy working with the students. It's one of my goals as a DARE officer to be familiar to the students, and to be approachable if they have problems.

2. I make it a point to be at the Eastern Lakeview High School Campus at least two afternoons a week, sometimes three, to meet informally with students as they walk through the hallways between classes. I have an office in the school as well, so if anyone wants to meet with me privately, all they have to do is leave a message and I can meet them there either before, during or after school. It's rare for me to be approached for a private meeting. Eastern Lakeview High School has very few behavior problems.

3. The school does have a strict policy against bullying, which I helped to develop with the help of school officials, faculty, students and parents. Everyone is aware of the policy as it is posted on almost every bulletin board, on the school's web page and in the lunchroom, locker rooms, etc. There are also signs posted throughout the school about reporting instances of bullying or other harmful behavior.

4. Basically, the policy explains that preventing or interfering with any student's attendance or performance at school, whether by threat, menace, or intimidation, will not be tolerated. The policy also outlines what bullying may include: things like verbal intimidation, harassment, violence of any kind, circulating mean-spirited rumors or gossip and stealing student belongings, books or work.

5. In addition, I think every teacher in the school district has had special instruction on how to handle bullies and bullying situations. Victims of bullying are advised and encouraged to inform their school guidance counselors or teachers. The school and I would take any allegation of bullying quite seriously and would try to act as swiftly as possible to ensure the safety of not only the bullied student, but the entire student body.

6. This may not have been enough though. Schools have a duty to protect their students and make sure they are safe while they are on the school property. They have a duty to prevent harm, not warn against the potential hazard. It's my personal belief that schools should take a bit more time to teach about understanding, diversity, compassion and moral conduct--things that would really help develop citizenship and human skills for the future. Holding an assembly and telling someone not to be a bully doesn't go far enough to address this kind of issue.

7. I go to the school as often as I can. I'm their assigned DARE officer, but I go more often to establish good bonds with the students. I want them to feel comfortable with me. I want them to be comfortable enough to let me help them. I want them to know that I am there to make them safe.

8. I happened to be working in my regular capacity as a police officer, not at the school as the DARE officer, when the call came in that there had been some vandalism at the Lyman home. I was one of the responding officers. I examined the vehicle that had been damaged and took statements from Mrs. Lyman, Criss's grandmother, and from Criss.

9. The tires on Criss's car had been slashed and the windows were broken in Mid-February. It was a pretty obvious case of vandalism. Criss's Grandmother, Mrs. Lyman, had called the police and during our interview with her and Criss, she mentioned the bullying Criss had experienced. She said that she thought the person responsible was Kim Dixon. I happened to be watching Criss when her/his Grandmother said this and I thought for a minute that Criss was going to be ill.

10. Turns out I wasn't far wrong. I later found out that after Criss's Grandmother made that statement, Criss has reacted pretty emotionally and had missed a few days of school. Criss and his/her Grandmother attribute that to fear and stress. Criss was quite obviously afraid of Kim.

11. After Criss's Grandmother mentioned Kim Dixon, and I saw Criss's reaction of fear, I tried to be as encouraging as possible and supportive. I mentioned that if there was a problem with bullying that Criss should take some steps to report the matter to the school so it could be stopped.

12. The police did question Kim Dixon, but we questioned a number of students related to that event. I remember that I mentioned to my supervisor that we might want to spread the questioning out a bit to ensure that, if there was a bullying issue, that Kim Dixon didn't think we were targeting him/her specifically based on a report from Criss. That could have made matters worse.

13. Kim Dixon, as it happens, had a substantial alibi for the night the damage occurred to Criss Lyman's car. Kim was out of town and had numerous witnesses to support that. That doesn't reflect much on the issue at hand though. The issue here isn't about Criss's car, it's about bullying. Systematic bullying that has caused Criss to fear for his/her personal safety. And that safety was, indeed, jeopardized when Kim Dixon grabbed Criss by the arm in the school hallway outside the cafeteria right after lunch hour.

14. I was at the school on that day, Friday, March 23rd, and was chatting with some students in the hallway where the incident occurred. We were talking about one of the DARE sessions I'd just presented. I had a clear view of what happened. I had spotted Criss after the talk and wondered if he/she was going to come and speak with me.

15. I didn't notice until some seconds later that Kim Dixon was behind Criss. From where I was standing, I could clearly see Kim whispering something to someone standing behind Criss. That person turned out to be Robin Dwight. Then I saw Kim reach out toward Criss. The look on Kim's face when Kim touched him/her was interesting. Kim was laughing.

16. Then all my attention went to Criss. When Criss felt the touch on his/her arm, all the color drained out of his/her face and he/she seemed to lurch forward and to the side all at once. Then Criss's face winced and Criss yelled. That must be when the break occurred. It was hard to tell if Kim had pushed or pulled Criss, or if Criss had panicked when he/she felt the touch, but it doesn't matter. That break wouldn't have happened if Kim Dixon had kept his/her hands off of Criss.

17. Because I witnessed what had happened that day near the school cafeteria after the lunch hour, my first order of business was to help Criss. Criss was crumpled on the floor, grabbing his/her upper arm and was deathly pale. I told one of the students nearby to go get the school nurse and the principal. I then radioed to the station for assistance.

18. The school nurse confirmed that Criss's arm was broken. I had the school contact Mrs. Lyman, Criss's Grandmother, and then I went with Criss to the hospital. Criss said that his/her greatest fear had happened and that he/she was relieved that there had been witnesses. After Mrs. Lyman arrived, and I had taken Criss's statement, I went back to the school and met with the principal.

19. I indicated to the principal that I had witnessed what had happened between Criss and Kim Dixon. The principal called Kim to the office and I arrested him/her on the spot for aggravated battery. Kim was flustered and kept saying, "All I did was touch him/her. I don't understand what happened." As soon as Kim stopped talking, I explained that Kim should contact his/her parents or guardians and that he/she shouldn't say anything else, the whole *Miranda* thing. I asked if Kim understood and Kim said that, yes, he/she did understand.

20. Then Kim remained silent and refused to comment on anything that happened that day. Kim did say that anything that he/she may have done to Criss prior to this incident was done in good fun. That's one person's point of

view. What Kim doesn't seem to understand is what it must feel like to be Criss and feel like you are a target.

Kim Dixon, alleged bully - Defendant

1. My name is Kim Dixon and I'm a senior at Eastern Lakeview High School. I'm 17 years old and live with my parents. I'm a good student, maybe a little above average, and I don't get into trouble. I defy anyone to find even one complaint that's been lodged against me during my high school years, or even before.

2. This year, and for some years in the past, a kid named Criss Lyman somehow decided that I was a bully. At first it was funny. This Lyman kid would see me and turn and run. I had done absolutely nothing to cause that kind of reaction. It made me laugh. I was pretty popular and most of my friends found it pretty funny too.

3. I would say this fear in Criss started a number of years ago, soon after Criss started at the schools in this town. I think Criss transferred here around seventh grade or so. At least that's about when I remember seeing him/her for the first time. I was a year older. Criss was the new kid and I had grown up in this area. I know everyone and everyone knows me. Criss was a strange kid. His/her parents are military and Criss would sometimes wear their military gear to school. Sort of showing off, I think.

4. Sometime, back then and even now, when Lyman would come around us, we'd make up names. What kid doesn't call someone a name? That's not bullying, it's good natured teasing. It looked like Lyman was panicking every time I was anywhere near. Maybe I look like someone who bothered Criss in the past. Whatever it was, it sure wasn't because of anything I aimed at that kid. All I did was join in the general name calling that all kids do when they're young. I can't help it if some of those names may have stuck.

5. I remember once when Lyman was a freshman, I was at the other end of the hallway, Criss saw me and spontaneously got a bloody nose and bled all over his/her precious military shirt. I have no clue how that kind of thing could possibly happen, but the look on Criss's face was amazing. Totally freaked out. Blood streaming down his/her face and Criss was just staring at me...and I was yards away. It seemed funny. I'm sure Criss was thinking that I had the power to spontaneously make blood spurt from his/her nose.

6. Anyhow, through the years Criss Lyman developed a reputation for being a bit of a coward, a chicken, and someone who always acted afraid. And Criss also was about the only person on earth who would have his/her parents, when they were around, drive him/her to school and then sit there and chat like best friends. Or maybe they were trying to get Criss to buck up and be brave. Seemed as though Criss was afraid of pretty much everything and

everyone. That's a sure way to make yourself the butt end of a joke or a target for teasing. You could be absolutely certain of getting an immediate reaction to whatever you were going to do, and sometimes those reactions could be pretty funny. Criss needs to grow up a little bit. More than a little bit!

7. My point is, if I, or anyone else, did do anything to tease Criss, and I'm not saying I did anything illegal or even nasty, it was all in good fun. Teasing, you know. Maybe having a little fun would get Criss to loosen up a bit and stop acting like such a chicken. It has to be hard to be living with your grandmother while your parents are so far away, but the kid should be used to that by now. His/Her parents have been in the military for Criss's whole life.

8. Our high school is large. We have over 1000 in the entire student body. How on earth could Criss accuse anyone of shoving or tripping in these hallways? Everyone shoves and I'm betting everyone feels like they've been tripped once in awhile. It's an old school and it's small and crowded. Between classes, every student barges into the hallways and tries to make it to their next class on time, fitting in a trip to the locker or the restroom can make you rush. People get jostled, or may feel like they're being pushed or shoved or even tripped.

9. As to any accusation that Criss's locker had been vandalized or that his/her books were all over the floor when Criss got there in the morning, that's just plain nonsense. This is, as I said before, quite an old school. Some of the lockers just don't work that well. I've come to school a few times and found my stuff all over the floor, but it's because I didn't close the locker properly and the door came open. I didn't blame anyone but myself. Criss, on the other hand, blames me for every little thing that has ever happened that Criss finds unusual or the least little bit frightening. Criss needs to get a sense of humor and put things into perspective. High school is a training ground for adulthood. How on earth is Criss going to handle the real world if he/she can't handle high school? Criss needs to toughen up.

10. As it happens, Robin Dwight, my friend, has a locker about two lockers down from Criss's. Maybe one of the notes I left for Robin got into Criss's locker by mistake. I mean, they are almost next to each other. I could have made a mistake and left a note for Robin in Criss's locker. I think one note I left for Robin said "After school. You and me. Let's get bloody." If that one happened to fall into Criss's locker, that kid would have probably stopped breathing! "Let's get bloody" is a sort of code term Robin and I use for let's go out and play hard.

11. After Criss's car was vandalized in February, the police asked me and my friends a lot of questions. I'm totally thankful that I was out of town when all that happened so they couldn't pin that one on me. They said that the car had

broken windows and slashed tires. That seems intentionally mean to me-- downright mean spirited. Not the usual kind of thing I'd do, if I were going to pull a prank. Pranks are one thing. Criminal behavior is something else again. I was definitely out of town on the weekend of February 17th.

12. Anyhow, the weekend that Criss's car was ruined, I was out of town with friends and family. I had about 20 witnesses who said I was miles away. I was relieved that they couldn't pin anything on me.

13. After the car vandalism, Criss would see me and just go almost green with fear. It was embarrassing to me. I'm not a monster, but Criss sure sees me as one. I think I could sneeze in that kid's direction and cause a major melt down. We call him/her Cringing Criss. I know about the signs that started appearing around the school, the cartoon of Lyman. I had nothing to do with that. Fingerprint the things if you want. You won't find my prints on them. They were funny though, and right on target. Someone else sees Criss the way I do.

14. Robin and I would go out of our way to be near Criss, but we didn't get too near and there was never any pushing, tripping, pulling hair, those kinds of juvenile behaviors. We knew that we might be contributing to Criss's nervousness but Criss has always been a nervous person, afraid of just about everything and everyone. What could we possibly do that could change that? We had every right to be in those hallways too. It was almost funny to see Criss cringe.

16. Robin once wondered if we should maybe steer clear of Criss for awhile. Kind of give the kid a break. I remember telling Robin that we had every right to be anywhere we were supposed to be and that if Criss had a problem with it, that was pretty much just too bad.

17. Then I heard from someone that Criss and his/her Grandmother had actually suggested to the police that it had been me that had trashed Criss's car. I was angry. I mean, to be accused of shoving someone in the hall, calling someone a silly name, or pulling someone's hair is very different from being accused of criminal vandalism. I remember I was angry at Criss and felt like I really wanted to do something to straighten that kid out. I thought about sticking a note in Criss's locker but thought it might be better to have a face to face confrontation. Besides, notes could be used as evidence and Criss had already ratted on me to the police for something I hadn't done.

18. The day that I allegedly broke Criss's arm, I thought I had the perfect opportunity to say something to Criss about accusing me of the vandalism. I wanted to let Criss know that he/she had been totally out of line. Criss was in the hallway outside the cafeteria right in front of Robin and me. The halls were

full; it was right after lunch hour. There were teachers around and the DARE officer was there too, standing at the doors. I remember leaning over to Robin and saying something like, here goes nothing...and we both smiled. I wanted to tell Criss to grow up. That was all. Just say those little words. Grow up.

19. Then I tried to get Criss's attention, but Criss didn't hear me, so I grabbed his/her arm and then Criss turned and saw that it was me and yanked really hard to get away from me. That's when I heard the snap. It never occurred to me that Criss would be so afraid that he/she would react so violently to being touched. I'm sorry about what happened, but it wasn't my fault at all. It's not a crime to try to get someone's attention by touching their arm. And that's all I did. Criss's reaction is what broke the arm. If Criss hadn't freaked out so badly, all would have been fine, I'm sure.

20. I almost went to the hospital to apologize. Sort of hash things out with Criss, but I didn't. I'd like to tell Criss what I meant to say that day. Criss needs to grow up and take some ownership of his/her life. Get a backbone. Don't be such a door mat. No wonder the kid is a target.

21. Now, just because Criss Lyman couldn't take a little bit of good natured teasing, I may end up with a criminal record. I may have to pay a fine that will really put a crunch on my family, or I may even spend some time in jail. My lawyer says it's possible that I could do almost a year of time...and then there would be probation. It's just not fair. I didn't do anything that much different from anyone else at school.

Robin Dwight, friend of Kim Dixon – Defense Witness

1. My name is Robin Dwight. I'm seventeen years of age and am a student at Eastern Lakeview High School. I'm a senior this year. I am a close friend of Kim Dixon and I am being called upon to tell everyone what a good friend Kim is to me.

2. That's not going to be hard. Kim has always been there for me. We've been friends for all our school years. We are neighbors too, we live about a block apart. We spend almost every weekend together. Neither of us has a job right now, so in our spare time we like to go to movies, watch TV, play video games, hang out at the mall, things like that.

3. Kim is full of fun and always has been. Some might look at the kind of fun we like to have as being a bit strange, but it has never hurt anyone. I guess you could call our sense of humor dry, or wry. Sarcastic. I guess some might feel it's a bit cutting, but we think it's funny and it's only intended to be fun. Nothing is too serious for us to joke about, it seems.

4. I think the only flaw I could find in Kim Dixon is that Kim likes to have things his/her own way and if things don't go the way Kim wants them to, then he/she can sometimes show a bit of bad temper. Kim isn't mean though. Not mean spirited at all. Kim just likes to have fun, and likes to try to get those around him/her laughing.

5. That could be what bothered Criss Lyman. Every time we'd be around Criss we'd be laughing. Maybe Criss thought we were laughing at him/her. Maybe sometimes we were. Criss could be a bit of a downer. Very serious and sort of afraid looking. We couldn't figure Criss out. Then we heard that Criss's parents were in the military and away at war and I thought that might be why Criss always looked so worried and afraid.

6. This year Kim and I didn't have many classes together, but we'd see each other often in the hallways and before and after school. I would be able to testify under oath that I never once saw Kim touch a hair on Criss Lyman's head at high school, prior to the day in the hallway outside the cafeteria. Never got near to Criss when I was around. My locker is almost next to Criss's so I see Criss a lot. I think only about two lockers separate ours. Same hallway, same side.

7. I know that Criss has complained that Kim might have been responsible for some broken car windows and slashed tires, but I was with Kim that evening out of town. Kim had loads of witnesses when the police came to question us.

8. And any problems with lockers could be blamed on the old school building. The place is ancient and so is the equipment. Kim's locker falls open if you look at it wrong and so does mine. I know lots of kids who have trouble with their locker doors staying closed. You have to really make sure it's closed and latched or you'll come back and it will be hanging open. We don't have locks on our lockers any longer. Something about school security. They were all removed years ago. Now anyone with an ounce of common sense doesn't leave anything too important in there.

9. As to calling Criss names, heck we'll admit to that but calling someone a goofy name isn't a crime. It's all just good fun. And, those signs that someone put up about "Here's Lyman" with the cartoon figure cracked me up.

10. Criss also seems to think that Kim is responsible for some bloody noses. I don't know anything about that but I can tell you that once we were in the same hallway as Criss and no one was anywhere near that kid and his/her nose started gushing blood for no reason. It was crazy.

11. Anyhow, I'm sure Criss is complaining about all sorts of stuff that probably goes way back to our junior high school/middle school years. Back then we may have tripped or pulled hair, but we're more mature now. That kind of physical teasing is too dumb to pull now. Like I said before, we call Criss names, but that's about all.

12. I do know that for some reason Criss is really frightened of Kim. I don't think Criss is afraid of me but the look on Criss's face when Kim's around is something to see. The kid goes green. Almost looks ill.

13. Maybe Criss's unnatural fear of Kim is why Criss yanked so hard that he/she broke his/her own arm when Kim touched Criss. I was there and I know Kim didn't have anything in mind but to confront Criss about the accusation that Kim had been involved in the car vandalism. Kim had found out from someone that Criss or his/her Grandmother had told the cops that Kim had probably been the one to damage the property. That was really out of line.

14. At first we laughed about it. Then Kim was really upset by that. It takes quite a bit to set Kim on edge, I mean Kim really has a great sense of humor, but Kim didn't find being accused of a crime funny at all. There was some talk, after the police initially questioned Kim, as to who might have indicated it was him/her that had vandalized Criss's car. I think right then Kim suspected that Criss had tried to pin something on Kim, but Kim wasn't angry then.

15. No, Kim didn't get angry until someone told him/her that they knew for sure that Criss had tried to point a finger at Kim for the vandalism to Criss's car. Kim ranted a bit. Wondered how Criss had the nerve to point a finger with no proof...and there was obviously no proof because Kim hadn't been anywhere near the car that night or any other night to my knowledge. I think that was when Kim said he/she had left a note in my locker saying something like "let's get bloody." That's our code for going out and playing hard. Running miles or biking or something physically challenging. I never got that note. I think it may have gotten into Criss's locker by mistake. Like I said, our lockers are really close together.

16. Kim blew off some steam, took a long walk and seemed to regain some sense of humor about the accusation. But I think it really bothered Kim that someone would think that Kim could do that sort of thing. I mean, calling someone names and laughing about them is far different from breaking their windows and slashing their tires. Way different.

17. Kim thought about leaving Criss a note asking for an apology, but I know for sure that Kim let that idea go. I think Kim didn't want Criss to misinterpret anything like that. I mean a note could be evidence couldn't it?

18. From the time that Criss's car was vandalized until Kim tried to grab Criss in the hallway to talk to him/her was only a matter of weeks. Kim had been stewing about it for awhile, and I'm pretty sure Criss hadn't forgotten about it. Emotions were running a bit high, I guess. Maybe that's why Criss reacted so badly and yanked so hard that he/she broke his/her own arm. And now they're blaming Kim for intentionally breaking Criss's arm. That's just nuts. It was a mistake...an accident...not a crime.

19. Kim knows about bullying. I think for awhile when he/she was much, much younger, his/her sense of humor may have gotten him/her in a bit of trouble with some teachers who pulled him/her aside and told Kim that some day his/her mouth was going to get him/her in trouble.

20. I wonder if something that happened in P.E. class earlier that day may have some bearing on this. We were playing volleyball and Criss fell when he/she jumped for the ball. Criss may have fallen on that same arm, but I'm not sure which arm Criss fell on. Maybe the arm was already cracked?

**Blair Graham, Ph.D., School social worker and clinical psychologist –
Defense Witness**

1. My name is Blair Graham and I currently am employed as a school social worker in the Eastern Lakeview school district in Lincoln County. One of the schools I serve is Eastern Lakeview High School. I am there two days a week, every week. My usual days at the high school are Thursdays and Fridays.

2. I am also a licensed clinical psychologist, though I'm not testifying as an expert in the field of psychology. I am testifying as a representative of the High School and the school district, and as a concerned adult.

3. As a representative of the school district I am able to state with authority that Kim Dixon has been, throughout his/her school life in this community, an excellent student and there have been no complaints against him/her on the junior high or high school records. One would think that if the accused were the villainous bully that we are supposed to believe, someone would have complained at some point. Even if Criss Lyman didn't come forward, surely someone would have.

4. But that thinking is not evidence. What is evidence is that Kim's record as a student in this school district is absolutely clean. There have been no reports against Kim at all.

5. I can also state, as the only school counselor, that Criss Lyman never once in all his/her years in this school district, sought the assistance of a school counselor. I've worked in this school district as the only counselor, shared among two elementary schools, one junior high school, or middle school, and one high school. I've held this position for over 12 years so I know both Criss and Kim.

6. All of our students are saturated with information on how to behave in our schools from the day they enroll. From kindergarten through high school graduation, we have high standards and expect our students to behave themselves and to be kind to others. We train the teachers and we have parent/teacher conferences to explain our policies and procedures. We meet with problem students and parents and do our utmost to get those students back on an acceptable behavior track.

7. At least twice a year, this school conducts a series of class sessions on peer mediation, dispute resolution techniques and how to handle grievances. With all this training, one would think that Criss Lyman would have had ample opportunity to report any instances of bullying by Kim Dixon, but Criss has been completely and utterly silent.

8. And, there are signs posted throughout the school property that indicate that misbehaving students should be reported. We post those signs for a reason. We expect our students to show some responsibility for themselves and others. But how can a school help if we are not aware of what is happening? I'm not really here to defend the school or the district, but I am here to make it completely clear that it is vital for people who have issues or problems to report them and seek assistance from an appropriate adult.

9. It is my personal opinion that Criss bears at least some of the responsibility for this situation getting so out of hand. With all the resources this school has put before the students, why didn't Criss say something? Why settle for being a victim if there are ways out of the situation?

10. As a school counselor, I've seen instances of bullying in the past. Usually the kids who are being bullied have poor grades. Criss's grades are excellent. Usually those who are being bullied are shy and retiring. Criss is anything but. I have heard reports that Criss routinely speaks up in class and participates. Criss quite obviously does not fit the profile of the usual victim.

11. Having said that Criss doesn't fit the victim profile, neither does Criss fit the profile of a consummate liar. I believe that on some level Criss actually believes that he/she is a victim. He/she obviously feels persecuted and bullied, but I wonder if this is a perception or a reality.

12. I also wonder if it could be possible that Criss might be creating problems so that his/her parents will hear about them and try to come home from their military service. Criss is obviously lonely and afraid, forced to live with his/her grandmother while his/her parents are both out of the country serving in the military. Criss may believe that his/her parents are in danger. Criss may want to get them out of danger and this may be one way Criss feels he/she can get them home.

13. If this is the case, then the entire case against Kim Dixon is a fabrication and the instance of the broken arm is being blown all out of proportion. In fact, my office is near the cafeteria, and I heard another student, Jenny Jones, say immediately following the incident, "Wow, Kim hardly touched Criss at all and the arm is broken. I can't believe it."

14. After Kim was arrested, I visited with Kim and his/her family. I wanted to follow through on some paperwork for the school and was very interested in meeting the family. Kim and his/her parents were very welcoming and forthcoming with all the information I requested. Kim indicated that he/she was considering a visit to the hospital to see Criss and apologize. As far as I am aware, that visit didn't happen, for whatever reason. Maybe Kim was afraid

of making the situation worse. I had the distinct feeling that Kim would have been willing to do almost anything to make the situation better.

15. It is my opinion that if Kim had been encouraged to go to the hospital to meet with Criss, perhaps with adults present, to work through the issues, then charges could have been dropped. Kim seriously seemed to want to remedy the situation, but was not offered the opportunity to do so.

Exhibit A - notes received by Criss Lyman

Most were shoved inside the locker vents or found inside Lyman's books. All are clipped and pasted letters from magazines and newspapers. None show any handwriting and none were typed on a computer or typewriter.

“Get a **life**.”

“After school. **You** and me. Let's get **bloody**”

“Let's get **bloody Today!**”

“**You're a Corpse**”

“**Mommy and Daddy** can't help **you** here”



Here's Lyman

Exhibit B - Excerpts from Criss Lyman's diary

Released requested by Dr. Terry Potter. Submitted after permission given by Criss Lyman. Dr. Potter indicated that there were far more entries that related to the alleged bullying by Kim Dixon, but these were indicative.

Friday, January 5, 2007 – Thank goodness for weekends. I get a break from school and Kim Dixon always following me around, pushing and tripping. Whew.

Tuesday, January 16 – I love holidays and no school. Relief from the constant teasing and pushing.

Monday, January 22 – Got to school this morning and my locker had been opened and everything in it was all over the floor. Robin Dwight and Kim Dixon laughed and laughed. They make me feel so stupid.

Wednesday, January 31 – Homework gone from locker. Finished it early and felt so good about having an evening free. Had to explain to the teacher that it had been stolen. Probably by K.D., but I didn't mention that.

Saturday, February 17, 2007 – Car vandalized. Freaking out. Know it was Kim!!!!

Tuesday, February 20, 2007 – Cafeteria problems today. Kim tripped me and my tray went flying. Everyone saw what happened and no one helped. Kim laughed. Why won't anyone help me? I feel very alone.

Wednesday, February 21, 2007 – Bloody nose again today. Always happens when Kim is around. Grandma wants to talk to the school. I told her no way. Things could get worse if Kim gets called to the office. I'd be dead.

Monday, February 26, 2007 – Did some Internet searching over the weekend to see if I could find information on how to stop bullying. Nothing sounds like it will work on Kim. In fact, things could get worse if I confront the issue head on. Hopeless.

Thursday, March 1, 2007 – Homework gone again out of locker. Teachers are starting to think I'm a slacker or worse. Can't think how to explain without getting myself in deeper trouble with Kim. Positive it's Kim and Robin who are taking the stuff and leaving the notes. Has to be.

Friday, March 2, 2007 – Robin out sick today. Kim alone. Almost worse when Robin's here. Kim likes an audience. Locker tossed again today. Doesn't seem to happen to anyone but me. Cartoons with my name on it all over school. Almost cried but made it home. I hate going to school so much!

Sunday evening, March 11, 2007 - Dreading another Monday. Don't know how much longer I can stand Kim taking aim at me. Threw up just thinking about school tomorrow. Made Grandma promise not to tell Mom and Dad. At least there haven't been any more of those awful cartoons about me pasted around...yet.

Monday, March 12, 2007 - Noticed some students looking at me with what seemed like pity in their eyes. They must keep quiet because they don't want to be targets.

Tuesday, March 13, 2007 - Bloody nose today. Kim was there, laughing. Told no one. Made it home before throwing up.

Thursday, March 15, 2007 - Kim out sick for two days now. What a relief. Had two days of relative peace.

Friday, March 16, 2007 - Kim back. Locker open when I arrived, books all over hallway. Homework gone. Need to do make up assignments again. Teachers can't seem to understand.

Monday, March 19, 2007 – Heard from Mom and Dad both. They're well, thankfully. They haven't seen each other for months and we're all missing each other so much. Haven't told them about the school situation. Wish they were here. Things might be so different if they were.

Thursday, March 22, 2007 – Things have been quiet lately. Hope this isn't the quiet before a storm.

Sunday, March 25, 2007 – I was sure right about the quiet before a storm. My arm's broken. Kim arrested. Officer Green saw everything. Dreading what's to come. At least it's all out in the open now. Relief. Heard from Mom and Dad. They're well. Home soon for leave...maybe that will make things easier!

Exhibit C. - Eastern Lakeview School District Bullying Information.



Don't be a bully!

Preventing or interfering with a child's attendance or performance at school, whether by threat, menace, or intimidation, will not be tolerated.

Bullying creates a climate of fear and inhibits the ability to learn. Bullying may include, but is not limited to:

- Intimidation through actions or words
- Victimization through actions or words
- Harassment through actions or words
- Violence of any kind
- Unwilling restraint
- Circulating mean-spirited rumors or gossip
- Stealing student belongings, books or work

All teachers in the school district have had special instruction on how to handle bullies and bullying situations. If you are the victim of bullying, please inform your school guidance counselor or your teachers. We will take all allegations seriously and will act to ensure the safety of the entire student body.

**Remember the Golden Rule:
Treat others as you want to be treated.**