

THE IGNORE/BLOCK/REPORT PROGRAM

My name is Shawn Edgington, and I'm an author, a speaker and the CEO of Granite Insurance Brokers, a firm that provides risk management and loss prevention services to businesses around the country. I wrote my newest book, *"The Parent's Guide to Texting, Facebook and Social Media,"* because I don't think any parent should have to go through the terrible experience that I went through with my 16-year-old daughter.

My daughter was being harassed, threatened and bullied via social media and mobile device during her senior year of High School. As a result of my daughter being cyberbullied, her entire personality and behavior changed, and still to this day, she is not the same fun-loving, social girl that she used to be.

- She completely shut her friends out of her life, and refused to go anywhere or do anything socially.
- She cut off most of her communication with those that love her the most
- She lost trust in the people she was closest to
- Now that she's in college, she has a hard time opening herself to new situations and new friendships

As the result of these changes I developed The Ignore/Block/Report Program. This program helps children and parents neutralize and defend themselves against bullies who harass, threaten or bully by text or online.

Talk to your kids and teach them the simple 3-step process:

IGNORE - DON'T RESPOND & make a copy of the message if you feel it's necessary

BLOCK - Call your wireless provider or go online to have the number blocked

REPORT - Report the harassment to parents and the police when necessary

Textual Harassment is an unfortunate reality that has developed as a result of the growth and popularity of texting. It has grown to such a degree that special laws have been put in place to contain the problem. As these laws will vary from state to state, you should check to see if the state where you live has such a law. In many states, a single unsolicited text message that threatens physical harm or obscene is enough to meet the definition of textual harassment.

For more information about the different state laws that govern electronic harassment, cyberstalking and cyberbullying, visit the **National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)**

Visit: <http://www.ncsl.org/IssuesResearch/TelecommunicationsInformationTechnology>

Shawn Marie Edgington is a leading cyberbullying prevention expert, Sharecare.com expert, a Teen Daily Strength blogger, and the author of the bestselling book, *The Parent's Guide to Texting, Facebook, and Social Media: Understanding the Benefits and Dangers of Parenting in a Digital World*, creator of the One-Click Safety Kit, and the founder of The Cyber Safety Academy Fundraising Company.