

CYBERBULLYING, SEXTING, AND BEYOND



Presented by Judge Bryan D. Haggerty
Co-Authored by Scott Crichton, Associate Justice
Louisiana Supreme Court

Why am I here?



Why are you here?



**What should you
expect to learn?**



**HOW ARE LAWS MADE,
HOW ARE THEY ENFORCED,
AND BY WHOM?**

3 Equal Branches of Government



The Legislative Branch



St. Tammany Parish Delegates



**Representative
Mary Dubuisson
District 90**



**Senator
Sharon Hewitt
District 1**



**Representative
Bob Owen
District 76**

The Executive Branch



**Governor
John Bel Edwards**

The Judicial Branch



City Court of East St. Tammany

**Bryan D. Haggerty
Presiding Judge**



Who's involved in the criminal process?



Randy Smith
Sheriff



Bryan D. Haggerty
Judge



Randy Fandal
Chief of Police



Warren Montgomery
District Attorney



Reginald Laurent
City Prosecutor

**WHO CAN BE
CHARGED WITH
A CRIME?**

PRINCIPALS

**All persons concerned in the
commission of a crime are principals.**

La. R.S. 14:24

What does the Law of Principals mean?

- Whether present or absent,
- Whether you directly commit the act, or
- Aid in its commission, or
- Directly or indirectly counsel another to commit the crime.

Example No. 1:

My friend, Pee Wee, and I go walk the neighborhood with the intent to steal from unlocked cars.

Pee Wee takes the lead and enters several unlocked cars.

Example No. 1: (CONT.)

I agree to be the lookout for Pee Wee and stand on the sidewalk.

Pee Wee comes back with sunglasses, electronics and a gun.

**Can I be charged
with Burglary?**

Yes.

**All persons concerned in the
commission of a crime are principals.**

Example No. 2:

I invite Pee Wee to my house and encourage him to steal from unlocked cars.

Pee Wee does it while I'm watching TV at my house.

Can I be charged with Burglary?

Yes.

**All persons concerned in the
commission of a crime are principals.**

THE AGE OF LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY IS 18



AGE EXCEPTION

For certain crimes, like:

Murder, Kidnapping, Rape, Armed Robbery and other Violent crimes ...

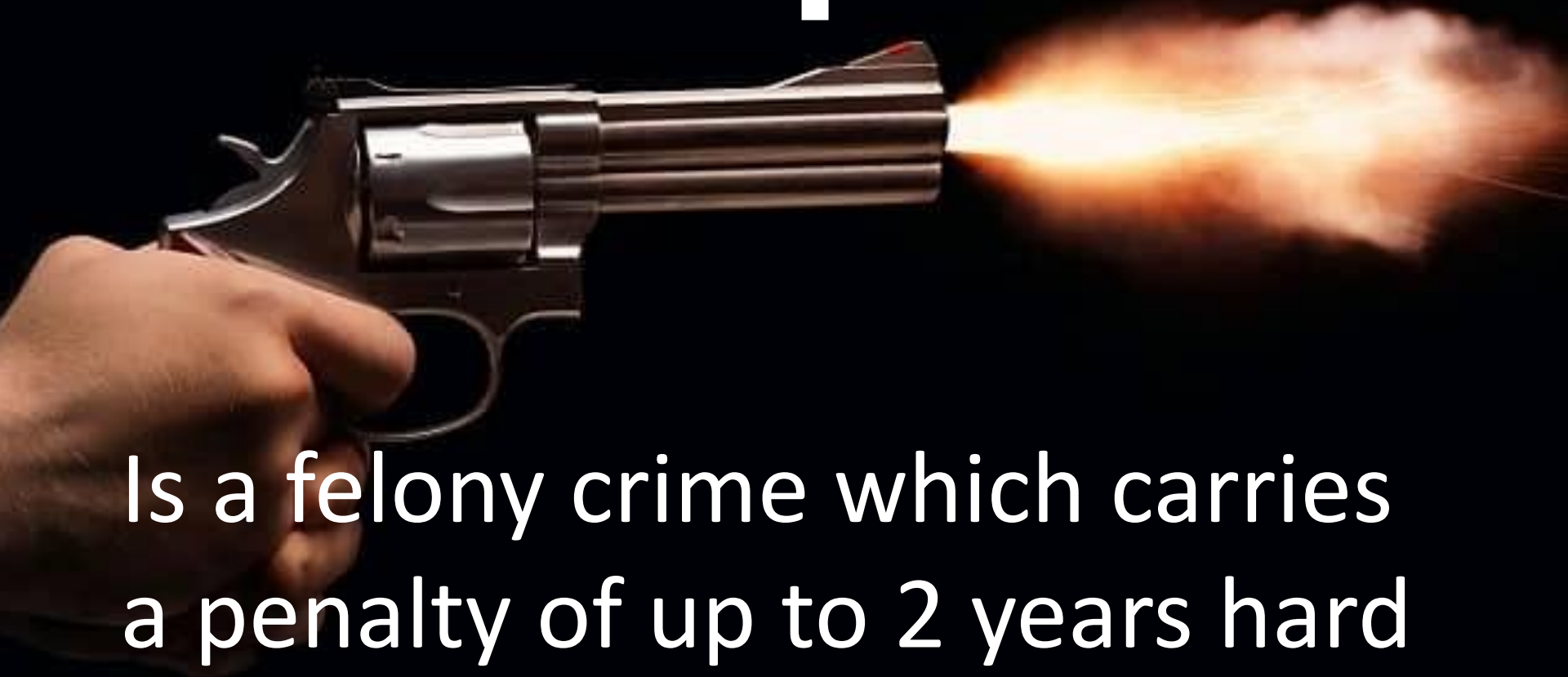
**Juveniles 15 or older may be
prosecuted in ADULT court;
and, if convicted,
sent to prison with adults.**

GUNS AND DRUGS

According to the National Institute of Mental Health

Gun violence is a national epidemic and the second leading cause of death for adolescents (aged 10-14), and teens and young adults (aged 15-24).

Illegal Discharge of a Weapon



Is a felony crime which carries
a penalty of up to 2 years hard
labor.

La. R.S. 14:94



Guns used in about 68% of gun-related incidents at schools were taken from the home, a friend or a relative.

Stolen Guns

No person shall intentionally possess a stolen firearm.

Penalty – First time offenders shall be imprisoned from one to five years

La. R.S. 14:69.1

Synthetic Marijuana

Also known as:



K2 * Voodoo * Spice

The health effects from using synthetic cannabinoids can be unpredictable and harmful—even life threatening

Extremely dangerous!

COCAINE

Powder or Crack



Both are physically and psychologically addictive.

Can lead to long term health problems including depression, paranoia, memory lapses – and because of its addictive qualities, spin-off crimes.

Methamphetamine

- A powerful, highly addictive stimulant
- Affects the central nervous system
- Comes in form of powder, crystals, and pills

What Meth Looks Like



Methamphetamine Powder



Methamphetamine Crystal



Methamphetamine Pills



The penalty for possession of a dangerous weapon while in possession of controlled substance is between **20-30 years imprisonment.**

La. R.S. 14:95(E)

Spin-Off Crimes

There are hundreds related to Drugs

Why?

- **Because use of illegal drugs can lead to addiction, and**
- **Illegal drugs are expensive.**

Top 5 Reasons for Teen Drug Abuse

5. Media influences
4. Coping with trauma, anxiety, depression
3. Escape or self-medication
2. Academic or performance pressure
- 1. Peer pressure and social influence**

ALCOHOL AND RELATED CRIMES

Possession by a Minor

A close-up photograph of a young person with dark hair, wearing a dark shirt, drinking from a green glass bottle. The person's eyes are closed, and the bottle is tilted towards their mouth. The background is a plain, light blue wall.

It is illegal for a person under 21 to purchase or have public possession of any alcoholic beverage.

La. R.S. 93:12

Driving While Intoxicated Under 21

It is unlawful for any person under the age of twenty-one (21) to operate a vehicle when the operator's blood alcohol concentration is 0.02 % or more.

La. R.S. 14:98.6

This is one beer!



DISCLAIMER: The crime of operating a vehicle while intoxicated can have deadly consequences.



**Unfortunately, impaired drivers
are not always the only victim**



ELECTRONIC CRIMES

Just Don't Do IT ...

- **Cyberbullying**
- **Sexting**
- **Texting While Driving**

ALL ARE AGAINST THE LAW

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the electronic transmission of a communication with the intent to abuse, torment, or intimidate a person under the age of 18.

La. R.S. 14:40.7

PENALTY:

Whoever commits this crime can be imprisoned for up to 6 months.

Example No. 1:

I sent a group text with a picture of another student that was edited in an unflattering way.

YES

All the kids in the group text posted laughing emojis or made not-so-nice comments.

Can I be charged with Cyberbullying?

Example No. 2:

I RECEIVED a group text with a picture of another student that was edited in a humiliating way.

YES

I forwarded this text to more people.

**Can I be charged with
Cyberbullying?**

Effects of Cyber Bullying

On those being bullied (victim):

- **Depression and anxiety**
- **Increased sadness and loneliness**
- **Changes in sleep and eating patterns**
- **Decreased academic achievement**
- **Loss of interest in activities**
- **Suicidal thoughts and/or death**

SEXTING

The act of sending sexually explicit photos electronically by person under 17 (can be of yourself or another person), including between mobile devices.

R.S. 14:81.1.1



PENALTY:

First offense is a fine from anywhere between \$100-\$250, imprisonment of up to 10 days, or both.

SEXTING (CONT).

A social danger with sexting is that material can be very easily and widely distributed ... over which the originator has no control.

**Once it's out there,
there's no getting it back!**

Cell Phone Use

According to the National Safety Council

8% of fatal crashes, 15% of injury crashes, and 14% of all police-reported motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2018 were distraction-affected crashes.

That means if you are 15, 16 or 17

**DO NOT
USE
YOUR CELL
PHONE
WHILE
DRIVING.**



Texting While Driving

**No person (regardless of age)
shall operate a car while texting.**

La. R.S. 32:300.5

**One bad decision
is all it takes**



Civil Liability For Parents

**PARENTS CAN BE SUED FOR
INJURIES OR DAMAGE DONE
BY THEIR MINOR CHILD.**

La. C.C. art. 2318

**WHY
IS ALL THIS
IMPORTANT?**

JAIL COULD BE YOUR FUTURE



**CONSEQUENCES
ARE
SIGNIFICANT.**

Having a criminal record

- **May prevent your admission into college or prevent getting a scholarship**
- **May prevent you from military service**
- **May prevent you from getting a job**
- **May cause you to go to jail or prison**
- **May cause you injury or death**
- **May cause someone else's injury or death**

DISADVANTAGES OF SOCIAL MEDIA

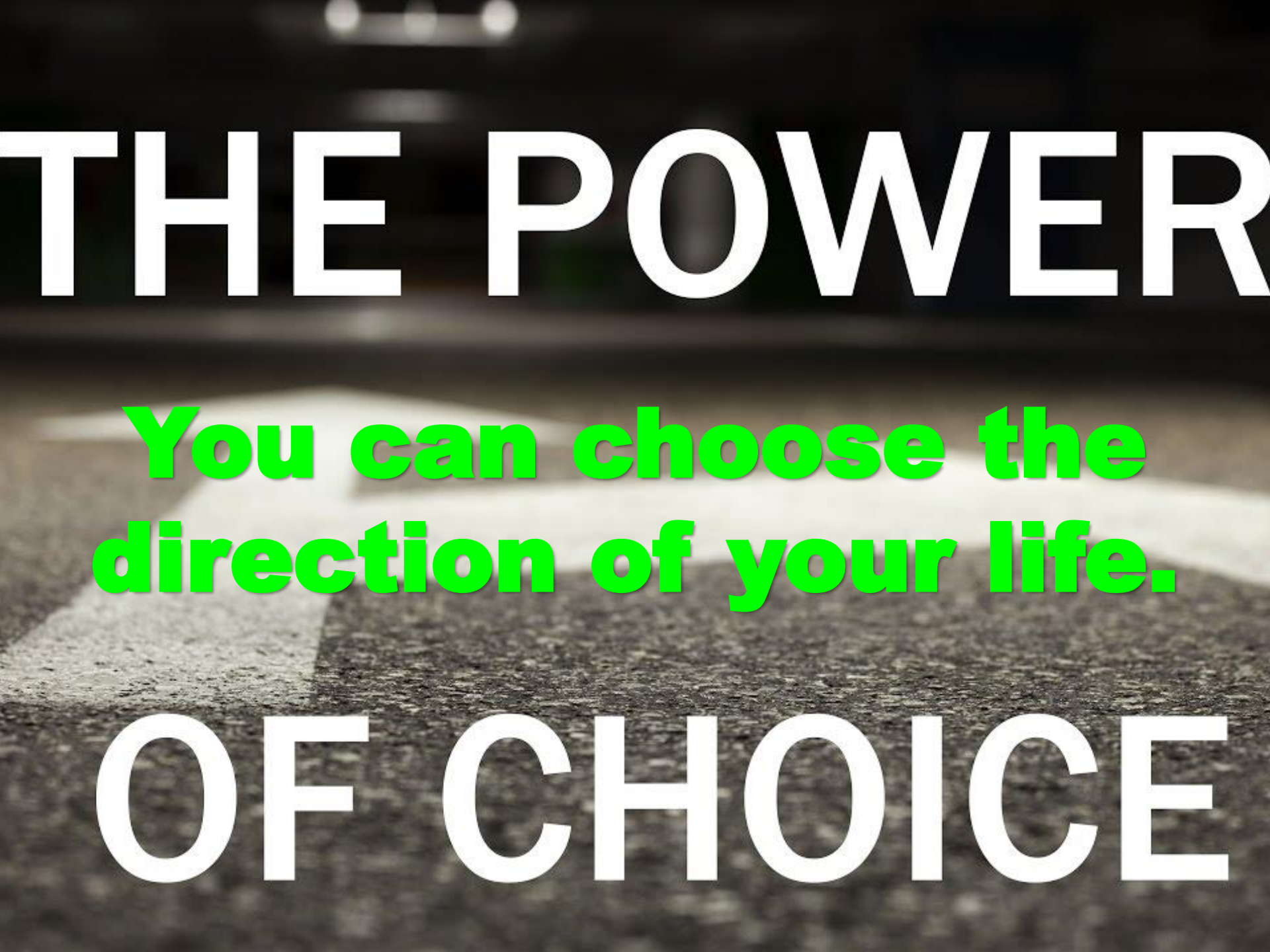
- 1. Gives license to people to be hurtful**
- 2. Decreases face-to-face communication skills**
- 3. Facilitates laziness**
- 4. Creates a skewed self-image**
- 5. Reduces family closeness**

CONCLUSIONS

THERE IS NO REWIND.

**“Judge, I wish I
could take it back -
but I can’t.”**





THE POWER

**You can choose the
direction of your life.**

OF CHOICE

**CHOOSE
WISELY**

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