

Safety Tips for Cyberbullying and Cybercrime

By Katherine Gallagher

From [A Helpful Online Safety Guide for People With Autism Spectrum Disorders](#) :

“Text-based communication sometimes struggles to convey the same level of meaning and context as face-to-face conversations. Because of this, it can sometimes be hard to tell if someone is intentionally trying to bully, or if it’s a misunderstanding. But, if a person sends you abusive messages, or tries to intimidate or embarrass you online, this is most definitely cyberbullying”

I believe that there are many ways that someone can become a target for cyberbullying or cybercrime, just like there are a many ways to commit the crime.

Recently, a new subscriber to my blog, Chris, shared this excellent article and resource for explaining the targeting techniques used by cybercriminals and cyberbullies. This article specifically focuses on how understanding this information can be very insightful and helpful for someone with autism. From experience, I have become mature in my own approach when I have been targeted by a cybercriminal and am now in the mindset of ignoring this person or blocking them on Facebook or, if a more serious instance, contacting the police.

Because I am familiar with how a cybercriminal may operate, I can usually spot these occurrences very quickly. If you are someone who is only approached once in a while by a scammer or bully, it can be much harder to interpret and see their mistakes if they are presenting you with a seemingly legitimate opportunity. In these instances, you can completely ignore them if you suspect a scam or find out more details from them and their offer. If one of these “companies” is asking for money from you upfront, or if you do some research on the company and find bad reviews, then it most likely is a scam. I will often search the company name with the word scam next to it to see what the results pull up.

Along with false job offers, dishonest people will also try to take advantage of you as mentioned in this article.

I also believe that getting to know people over social media alone is not the answer. We need to get to know someone in a face-to-face interaction to make our own judgments. People can fake their identity and make their profiles seem much better than they really are, or they can create multiple profiles.

You need to be aware that not everyone on the internet is as good as they may look. This can be hard for us to do. As autistics, we take things literally, so we believe what we see until we see otherwise. We need social media now more than ever, but we need to be careful and professional, too.

Here is a link to the article on [A Helpful Online Safety Guide for People With Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)

If you cannot open the link here is the web page address

<https://www.wizcase.com/blog/internet-safety-guide-for-people-with-autism-spectrum-disorders/>

About the author: Katherine Gallagher

I created this [Website](#) to express my unique autism perceptions. I share my insights and resources here as a person with lived experience. I encourage you to read my [About Me](#) and [Portfolio](#) pages. Or the [What is Autism](#) page for a more in-depth definition.

Autism is very unique and complex. Each person experiences autism differently. My opinions and information are expressions about myself and my experiences.

Perception means the ability to see things. It is the ability to become aware of something through the senses. Autism has given me a unique reality and open mind. I believe it is important for others to have their own unique perceptions as individuals on the autism spectrum.

