

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**

**CITY OF LONDON**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING “BULLYING” AS A CLASS “A” MISDEMEANOR WITHIN THE CITY OF LONDON, KENTUCKY; DEFINITIONS; NO INTERFERENCE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS; REPORTING; EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance is made by the City of London, Kentucky pursuant to KRS 83A.065 and KRS 82.082 and pursuant to the Police powers granted to municipalities by other Kentucky legislation and in protection of the public, particularly the youth of our community.

*WHEREAS*, bullying has become an increasingly negative part of our everyday life and such behavior is abhorrent and should not be tolerated in civil society in London, Kentucky, and

*WHEREAS* bullying has been the source and reason of increasing children suicide rates and an increasing drug use, the segregation and isolation of some children, medical and psychological issues with children and adults,

*NOW therefore* **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF LONDON, KENTUCKY AS FOLLOWS:**

A. For the purposes of this Ordinance:

1. “Bullying” is defined as the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group, one or more are whom are under the age of nineteen (19) by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

2. "Bullying" as defined herein may be physical, verbal or psychological, face-to-face or online or a combination of the same.
  3. If the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group involving an imbalance of power by the use of words or phrases including one's gender, race, national origin, or disability, there shall be a legal presumption that the behavior is bullying, as defined in this Ordinance.
- B. Nothing in this Ordinance is intended to interfere with the Constitutional guarantees of the the right of freedom of speech as guaranteed by the United States and Kentucky Constitutions.
- C. This Ordinance recognizes that the repetitive intentional hurt by one person or persons upon another person or persons, that presents itself by using an imbalance of power by the person or persons repetitively and intentional doing harm to another person verbally, in social media or in person is prohibited by this Ordinance.
- D. Any person who has been bullied pursuant to this Ordinance, shall report the same, in writing, to the London City Police. Pursuant to an investigation of the same, the London City Police may charge a person with violating this Ordinance and issue a criminal citation for the same.
- E. Pursuant to Kentucky law, namely KRS 83A.065 a criminal charge pursuant to this Ordinance is punishable by the Laurel District Court as a Class A misdemeanor, and punishable pursuant to KRS 534.040 and KRS 532.090 by a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and/or a maximum of twelve (12) month term of imprisonment.

F. If any portion or portions of this Ordinance are declared unconstitutional or void, those sections of the Ordinance otherwise remaining shall be in full force and effect.

G. Any Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

H. This Ordinance shall be effective upon publication.

This the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Mayor Randall Weddle  
City of London, Kentucky

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_

Katelin McPeek, London City Clerk

First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ Second Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Publication: \_\_\_\_\_