

Parents' Corner: Grace's Law



Grace McComas, born on October 9, 1996 was a wonderful human being who was well-loved. She was funny, exuberantly happy, and kind-hearted. She was tender hearted even. Too tenderhearted in fact, in a world which can be cruel. We lost Grace to a bullying-related suicide on Easter Sunday April 8, 2012.

Grace was not a sullen, uncommunicative teen, we knew what was happening. We did everything the bullying experts say you should do. We got her support and reached out for help to multiple public agencies, none of whom seemed to recognize the danger.

What we learned is that kids are digitally interconnected today, so that bullying is truly different than ever before. No longer does something unpleasant happen and the child is able to go home to his sanctuary. Instead, hatred and gossip is amplified and follows them there, as close as their cell phone, computer, game systems, etc. It travels at the speed of electronic media and never goes away. There was no law that protected our daughter from death-wishing, dehumanizing 'tweets.' There is now.

Maryland recently passed "**Grace's Law**," which makes cyber bullying a crime punishable by a \$500 fine, 1 year in jail or both. It goes into effect in October 2013.

Please be aware of the risk of cyber-bullying to our youth. Continue the discussion and pass it on. We need awareness and national dialogue to protect our children and prevent further tragedy. For more information, check with the Grace K. McComas Memorial Webpage on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/GraceMcComasMemorial

This tribute is in honor and loving memory of Grace Katherine McComas. We love you and miss you every single day sweetheart, until we meet again in glory. No more pain. No more tears. Only peace & love.

Grace is survived by her loving parents, David & Christine as well as her 3 sisters, Cara, Megan and Gloria.