

NIBRS Coding Scenarios

Cyber Crime – A Persistent and Present Problem

Scenario #1: An agency had a teenage girl report that someone broke into her Facebook account, took on her identity, and posted inappropriate comments.

Scenario Coding #1: This incident would be coded to “26C - Impersonation” as the offender took on the girl’s identity. Data element, “Offender(s) Suspected of Using” in the Offense Segment should be coded to “C – Computer Equipment”.

Scenario #2: An agency had a 20 year old male report that his girlfriend’s ex had posted on a social media page that he was going to do physical harm to them next time he saw them.

Scenario Coding #2: This incident would be coded as “13C – Intimidation Assault”. Data element, “Offender(s) Suspected of Using” in the Offense Segment should be coded to “C – Computer Equipment”.

Scenario #3: An agency had a farmer report that he had purchased a tractor off of Ebay and it was supposed to be available for pickup four months ago. The farmer cannot make contact with the Seller. All the Seller contact information is no longer valid.

Scenario Coding #3: This incident would be coded as “26E – Wire Fraud”. Data element, “Offender(s) Suspected of Using” in the Offense Segment should be coded to “C – Computer Equipment”.

Scenario #4: An agency has a new resident who is known to be a male homosexual report that he just became aware of a new web site hosted by a few locals which contains well-known and recognized epithets against “Gays”. It threatens that they will make sure no “Gays” live in “their” town and they will take it upon themselves to dispose of any. It also has a picture of him which has been inappropriately altered.

Scenario Coding #4: This incident would be coded as “13C – Intimidation Assault”. Data element, “Offender(s) Suspected of Using” in the Offense Segment should be coded to “C – Computer Equipment”. Agencies need to report this as a hate crime by completing data element “Bias Motivation” with “41 – Anti-Male Homosexual (Gay)”.

Reference: *NIBRS Volume 1: Data Collection Guidelines* (blue cover), “26C - Impersonation” and “26E – Wire Fraud” on page 27; “13C – Intimidation Assault” on page 23; “Offender(s) Suspected of Using” on pp 73-74; and “Bias Motivation” on pp 74-76.



Note that the preceding gives general examples. It is not meant to be all inclusive. Coding is based on individual case circumstances.

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