South Pasadena Students Conspire Online to Carry Out School Shooting

By: Jeremy Geigle, Attorney at Law JacksonWhite, P.C.

Two boys, ages 16 and 17, were arrested for plotting a mass school shooting on the Internet. What was the intended goal of the massacre? According to their online conversations, it was simply "to kill as many people as possible." The boys have been detained with pending criminal charges.

After looking into their recent Internet activity, authorities found out that they had been researching a suspicious amount of explosives and weaponry. However, no actual weapons were found in either home.

The teens have yet to be identified, and as of right now there have not been many details released, but police say there was some "pretty frightening information" revealed in interviews and through Internet surveillance.

Currently, the boys are being held on suspicion of conspiracy and criminal threats.

What is considered criminal activity on social media?

Younger kids with nothing to lose seem to post the first thing that comes to mind online, often disregarding the consequences. What they don't realize, until they're prosecuted, is that their harmless violent jokes become real criminal activity in the eyes of law enforcement once they clink post.

A lot of the time, a young person's crude bomb threat or gun joke becomes a public inconvenience leading to an evacuation, and then to criminal charges for the defendant.

Consequences for Threats Leading to Public Inconvenience in AZ

According to A.R.S. 13-1202, criminal threatening or intimidation occurs when there is:

- Physical or verbal injury to another person
- Significant damage to another person's property
- Causing public inconveniences, such as evacuations
- Members of gangs or crime syndicates injuring others

Threats are very subjective because any individual can interpret something you say as aggressive rather than harmless, and that can lead to a panic. So, defending threats in court can be tricky and if you're facing charges you'll need an aggressive and unfaltering attorney to prove you're innocent.

Punishment varies from a misdemeanor to a felony depending on the severity and the circumstances of the threat that was made.

Jeremy Geigle is a criminal defense attorney and shareholder at JacksonWhite. He has been practicing over 8 years and has handled thousands of felony and misdemeanor counts. He works in both adult and

juvenile court handling DUIs, aggravated felonies and sex crimes in Arizona. He works in Federal, State and local jurisdictions including Phoenix, Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, Scottsdale, Glendale, Tempe and Peoria. Mr. Geigle is a 5-Star-Client-Rated Attorney on Avvo. To read more about what former clients are saying about hiring Mr. Geigle or to set up a free consultation, please visit www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/criminal-defense-law.

Founded in 1983, JacksonWhite P.C. offers a full -range of services to assist individuals, families and businesses with their legal needs. Since its inception, the Mesa firm has grown steadily to include 22 highly experienced attorneys and over 40 paralegals, legal assistants and staff. At this size, the firm is large enough to offer the efficiency and technical expertise of larger firms, yet small enough to provide clients with individualized, personalized attention. JacksonWhite has multiple offices around the state of Arizona including a Mesa, Casa Grande and Peoria locations. For more information on a specific attorney or area of practice, please visit www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/criminal-defense-law.