

Date: September 14, 2021

Attention: ASCIP Members

Affected: Administrators, Risk Management, and Faculty & Staff

Applicability: K-12, Community Colleges & Charter Schools

SAFETY & SECURITY ALERT: COVERT RECORDING DEVICES

Covert recording devices have been implicated in instances of privacy invasion and voyeurism. They can be easily concealed in many everyday objects such as smoke detectors, phone chargers, body wash, water bottles, clocks, wall hangers, and more. Identification and removal of these devices are important steps toward prevention of misconduct and traumatization in schools.

Invasion of Privacy – CA Penal Code 647(j)

California Penal Code section 647(j) makes it a crime for a person unlawfully to invade someone else's privacy. A person can violate this code section:

- by secretly photographing or recording a person's body under the clothing
- by secretly recording or photographing someone in a private room to view that person's body.

Detecting Various Types of Covert Recording Devices

Self-contained devices may have an internal battery & micro-SD card.

- Do not need plugged into a cord or outlet for power.
- Do not emit a WIFI or Radio Frequency (RF) signal.

Spy Cam Blender Bottle



Pin hole / Camera lens

NO pin hole / Camera lens



Non-self-contained devices may rely on electrical power, and a WIFI or RF signal to send images.

- Be alert for cords or wires, attached to devices that seemingly serve no purpose,
- Be alert for unusual WIFI addresses.



Marketed covert recording devices such as Nanny Cams or Spy Cams are legal to purchase. They often mimic name brands but likely will NOT include a brand name due to trademark infringement.

- Be alert for lack of brand names or commercial markings.
- Be alert for fake or misspelled brand names.



Recommendations

Locker Room Attendants and Custodial Staff are encouraged to check locker rooms and restrooms for suspicious devices during the course of their duties, including:

- Pinhole openings - provide the lens with perspective and a visual window.
 - Like any camera lens, spy camera lenses will reflect and have a distinct visual appearance.
 - If in doubt, turn off lights in room and use a flashlight, watch for reflection.
- Unusual items or ordinary items appearing out of place.
- Conspicuously oriented items (facing a peculiar direction).
- Unusual WIFI addresses that may show up on your phone or device.
- Possible indicator lights that devices may have to determine if 'ON'

Immediately report concerns or suspected suspicious devices to an administrator.

On the Alert!

Resources - Loss Control Safety Assessments (LCSA)

Safety audits not only identify safety risks in physical environments, but they also help highlight student sexual abuse prevention best practices. These include, but not limited to, eliminating couches in the classroom, reducing unnecessary lockers, and enhancing reporting protocols. According to Maria Brunel, Director of Risk Control Services with POMS, "Loss Control Safety Assessments assist with identifying physical exposures that can potentially increase the risk of child sexual abuse." Certain types of furniture, such as couches, not only create a physical environment that increases the risk for a child sexual abuse incident, but also serve as potential habitat for vermin and insects. ASCIP considers identifying and addressing risks in the physical environment to be an important component of the many safeguards recommended to reduce child sexual abuse in education.

LCSA's are included in the menu of services and safeguards offered through our **CAARE (Child Anti-Assault Response & Education) Program** to support districts in their efforts to reduce child sexual abuse on campus. For more information, or to sign-up for this service, please call Heidi Cisneros, ASCIP Student Safety Advocate at 562.215.6690.

Please contact your ASCIP Risk Services Consultant or our Risk Services team at RM_Info@ascip.org for questions or to discuss further.