

What was supposed to be the best year in a teenager's life- senior year in high school, has been consumed with all the details of a criminal case that we are involved in. It centers on our neighbor and what we truly believed for almost 15 years was a good family friend.

This person wasn't what anyone would consider a creep. He had a great family, held a very respectable position in a local tech company and was involved with church and our community. But when my daughter was just 13 years old, he started inviting her down to his beach house for the weekend with him and his boys. My husband and I didn't think that was odd because my daughter and his son have been best friends since kindergarten and most importantly, we trusted him. We trusted him to take care of her like she was his own daughter. Instead, he chose to buy a small recording device the size of a car fob to secretly tape her as she undressed from showering. He continued to do this ritual over the course of 4 years. Then, because kids' lives get busier as they get older and she wasn't able to visit the beach with them as often, he decided to start recording her in her own bedroom. A place where you would expect complete privacy. Luckily the camera was discovered after only a few months of recording and this is what ultimately led to his arrest.

But the way our laws are currently written, his Invasion of Privacy charges (7 in all) would have given him a slap on the wrist and chances of any jail time almost non-existent. It was only because he was gutsy enough to place the camera in our own home, was he charged with two counts of burglary. And that is the only reason he potentially may serve two years in prison. Not because he secretly recorded my daughter for almost 5 years for his personal enjoyment but because he entered our house with the intent to commit a crime. That is so wrong. To add insult to injury, he not only doesn't have to register as a sex offender, but when he is released from prison will continue to be our neighbor four houses down from us. Our dead end street requires us to drive by his house every time we leave our street. Going for walks sets up to pass within feet of him driving by. With no indication that his family has any intention of moving from the neighborhood, it will force us to move, becoming the victim once again.

As recording devices become smaller and more advanced, our laws need to keep one step ahead of technology. These people who are delusional in thinking its okay to secretly tape record a person's most private moments for their own pleasure need to be held accountable and need to be deterred from claiming more victims in the future. By passing House Bill 2356, it will punish those who commit these crimes appropriately and hopefully may deter some who are thinking about it but realize what will happen to them when they get caught. I strongly encourage the passing of House Bill 2356.

Sincerely,

Katie + Clark Reed 2-17-15