

Follow Techdirt [Social media icons]

Techdirt Gear T-SHIRTS, HOODIES, MUGS & MUCH MORE FROM TECHDIRT SHOP NOW

Advertisement Report this ad | Hide Techdirt ads

Essential Reading Hot Topics 5.6 Illinois Prosecutor Brings Felony Eavesdropping Charges Against 13-Year-Old Who Recorded His Conversation With School Administrators

New To Techdirt? Explore some core concepts: Perhaps It's Not The Entertainment Industry's Business Model That's Outdated

Techdirt Deals Report this ad | Hide Techdirt ads

Techdirt Insider Chat Mason Wheeler: @Jeffrey Ugh, that article is totally missing the point. That's not DRM, it's "signing," and it's completely reasonable.

Advertisement Report this ad | Hide Techdirt ads

Recent Stories Wednesday 12:16 Investigation Shows AT&T Really Likes Being In The Surveillance Business (0)

Illinois Prosecutor Brings Felony Eavesdropping Charges Against 13-Year-Old Who Recorded His Conversation With School Administrators

from the no-crime-too-small dept One of Illinois' most-abused laws continues to be abused. For years, cops used the state's eavesdropping laws to arrest citizens who attempted to record them.

This may have led to the end of bullshit arrests from cops who didn't like being observed while they worked, but it's still being used by government officials to punish people they don't like.

On Feb. 16, 2018, [Paul] Boron was called to the principal's office at Manteno Middle School after failing to attend a number of detentions.

Boron said he argued with Conrad and Short for approximately 10 minutes in the reception area of the school secretary's office, with the door open to the hallway.

Principal Conrad sure knows his local statutes. He turned Boron in to law enforcement, which apparently decided to go ahead and process the paperwork, rather than tell Conrad to stop acting like a child.

In his petition to bring the charge, Kankakee County Assistant State's Attorney Mark Laws wrote that Boron on Feb. 16 "used a cellphone to surreptitiously record a private conversation between the minor and school officials without consent of all parties."

The law forbids recordings without all parties' consent. It would seem that the school officials' refusal to discuss anything further once they were informed they were being recorded should have been enough.

As it stands now, the law relies on a "reasonable expectation of privacy" to determine whether recordings without the consent of all parties are illegal.

For a 13-year-old, this is a huge problem. This places his recording of his conversation with school officials on the same level as aggravated assault and stalking.

Anyone further down the line -- from local law enforcement to the county prosecutor -- could have put a stop to this chain of events but they all chose not to.

10 Comments | Leave a Comment

If you liked this post, you may also be interested in... Judge OKs Class Action Status For Illinoisans Claiming Facebook Violated State Privacy Law

Reader Comments

View by: Time | Thread Subscribe: RSS

Anonymous Coward, 27 Jun 2018 @ 9:39am "The reaction by school officials is petty and vindictive" school officials = petty and vindictive

Kevin Hayden, 27 Jun 2018 @ 9:53am Administrators may have shot themselves in the foot If the school administrators wanted to keep the conversation out of the public eye, they may have shot themselves in the foot.

Jeremy Lyman (profile), 27 Jun 2018 @ 10:59am Re: Administrators may have shot themselves in the foot Yup, this was my thought as well.

That Anonymous Coward (profile), 27 Jun 2018 @ 9:53am One really needs to ask what the school staff was up to. To destroy a 13 yr olds life over a meeting...

John Cressman, 27 Jun 2018 @ 10:03am Odd Are PUBLIC school officials NOT public servants? What are they? Public TASKMASTERS?

JoeCool (profile), 27 Jun 2018 @ 10:11am Cha-CHING! Illinois taxpayers are gonna be on the hook for another million dollar settlement after his family's lawsuit over a law already declared unconstitutional.

Anonymous Coward, 27 Jun 2018 @ 10:34am Re: Cha-CHING! They will fight it all the way to the supreme court again.

David, 27 Jun 2018 @ 10:33am Can't we put him in the sex offender registry for this? I mean, a 1 year felony prison sentence is nice and all that but to send a real message to U.S. children, fucking them over for the rest of their life just seems more impressive.

Pixelation, 27 Jun 2018 @ 12:02pm Re: Can't we put him in the sex offender registry for this? Nice to see them working to get a hardened criminal off the streets.

tom (profile), 27 Jun 2018 @ 11:19am There is something going on between Mr Boron and that school administration because of all of the detentions and Mr Boron deciding to miss them.

Add Your Comment Have a Techdirt Account? Sign in now. Want one? Register here Name [input] Email [input] URL [input] Subject [input] Comment [text area]