



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

SAMANTHA KERKMAN

Assembly Bill 566 / Senate Bill 452

Invasions of Privacy – the Locker Room Privacy Bill

Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Good morning, Chairman Kleefisch and committee members; thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify before you today on Assembly Bill 566, the locker room privacy bill.

This bill was prompted by events that happened at a recreational facility called the RecPlex in Pleasant Prairie. The community was horrified to learn that someone had been hiding small cameras in the women's locker room and had been recording videos of women and children changing. Imagine finding out that someone had been video-taping you in that locker room. Imagine finding out that someone had been video-recording your minor daughter in that locker room. You would be sickened by the thought that those videos were being shared with others for their sexual gratification and could end up on the internet someday.

The woman who placed multiple cameras in the RecPlex locker room did it at the request of a man whom she worked with and had become involved with. For years, she placed cameras in locker rooms, and turned the footage over to him. When they were discovered, there were countless women and children victims on those tapes; prosecutors were able to positively identify 47 of them.

This incident has caused extensive harm to their victims and clearly highlights the need to increase penalties for this type of behavior. AB 566 increases the penalty for taking photos or videos of nude or partially nude adults in a locker room from a Class B Misdemeanor to a Class A Misdemeanor and increases the penalty for taking nude or partially nude photos or videos of a minor from a Class B Misdemeanor to a Class I Felony. If the perpetrator also distributes the photos or videos, the penalties increase from a Class A Misdemeanor to a Class I Felony for adult victims, and from a Class A Misdemeanor to a Class H Felony for minor victims. Additionally, for all non-locker room invasion of privacy offenses and capturing nudity offenses, penalties are bumped up by one level of severity when the victim is a minor.

Testifying with me today are Christina Walker and her daughter who is one of the underage victims of the RecPlex crimes. I'm going to let them tell their stories.



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

TESTIMONY ON ASSEMBLY BILL 566

Thank you committee members, for this hearing on Assembly Bill 566. This bill is a bi-partisan measure that increases penalties for offenders who install or use a surveillance device, or look into a place of privacy such as a locker room, if the victim is under 18. Representative Kerkman and I are bringing this important bill forward due to a recent case in Pleasant Prairie.

Under current law, a person is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor if he or she installs or uses a surveillance device in any private place to observe any nude person or looks for sexual arousal or gratification into a private place in a public building, such as a locker room, or into someone's home.

These are places that we should be able to feel safe, but unfortunately that is not always the case. In a recent case in Pleasant Prairie, one offender and several accomplices, spent four years compiling more than 20,000 hours of pornographic videos to satisfy his sexual fetishes. Many of those videos were recorded inside women's locker rooms at Uline and the RecPlex in Pleasant Prairie. These actions are reprehensible, but become even more despicable when these videos are taken of children.

I believe that as Legislators, we must protect those that are most vulnerable. Having children victimized in this way is simply unacceptable. Assembly Bill 566 increases the penalty for these invasions of privacy if the victim is under 18. Simply put, filming children or viewing children in a place of privacy for sexual arousal or gratification is a repulsive crime and should carry with it a higher penalty to protect those who need it most. Thank you again for this hearing on Assembly Bill 566. Please join me in supporting this important bill.

Serving Racine County - Senate District 21

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • (608) 266-1832 • Toll-free (866) 615-7510
E-Mail: Sen.Wanggaard@legis.wi.gov • <http://Wanggaard.senate.wi.gov>

Invasion of Privacy (942.08) & Depicting Nudity (942.09) Criminal Penalties

Invasion of Privacy – Peeping Tom							
Statute	Charge	Penalty under Current Law	Penalty under AB 566 / SB 452	Act	Photo	Distribute	No Consent
942.08 (2) (a)	Knowingly install a surveillance device in any private place or uses existing surveillance device with intent to observe nudity or partial nudity without consent	Class A Misdemeanor \$10,000 / 9 months	Class A Misdemeanor \$10,000 / 9 months Victim <18 Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months	Installing surveillance device with intent to observe nudity – “Peeping Tom”	No	No	Yes
942.08 (2) (b)	For the purposes of sexual gratification: and has a reasonable expectation of being nude	Class A Misdemeanor \$10,000 / 9 months	Class A Misdemeanor \$10,000 / 9 months Victim <18 Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months	Looking at someone nude – “Peeping Tom”	No	No	Yes
942.08 (2) (c)	For the purposes of sexual gratification: looking into a private or public place where a person is NOT present, but there is a reasonable expectation of someone being nude	Class A Misdemeanor \$10,000 / 9 months	Class A Misdemeanor \$10,000 / 9 months Victim <18 Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months	Attempting to look at someone nude, but no one is present – “Peeping Tom”	No	No	Yes
942.08 (2) (d)	Enters a person’s private property without consent or enters unenclosed common area of multiunit dwelling and looks into dwelling unit, if: looking for sexual gratification, there is reasonable expectation of privacy, no consent, looks into area where individual is present	Class A Misdemeanor \$10,000 / 9 months	Class A Misdemeanor \$10,000 / 9 months Victim <18 Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months	Entering and/or looking into someone’s home/apartment for sexual gratification – “Peeping Tom”	No	No	Yes

Invasion of Privacy (942.08) & Depicting Nudity (942.09) Criminal Penalties

Invasion of Privacy – Up-Skirting						
Statute	Charge	Penalty under Current Law	Penalty under AB 566 / SB 452	Act	Photo	Distribute
942.08 (3) <u>2015 WI Act 80</u>	Install or use device with intent to capture a representation of someone's private areas whether or not they are covered by undergarment	Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months		Taking a photo of someone's undergarments without consent where they have reasonable expectation of privacy (Up-skirting)	Yes	No
Depicting Nudity						
942.09 (2) (am) 1	Captures a representation that depicts nudity without the knowledge or consent of the person depicted nude, while that person has a reasonable expectation of privacy	Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months	Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months Victim <18 Class H felony \$10,000 / 6 years	Capturing a nude photo without consent	Yes	No
942.09 (2) (am) 2	Reproducing a representation of a nude photo that was knowingly taken without the consent of the person depicted *Act isn't distribution, but could be distributed	Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months	Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months Victim <18 Class H felony \$10,000 / 6 years	Reproducing a nude photo without consent	Yes	No *
942.09 (2) (am) 3	Possess, distributes, or exhibit a nude photo that was knowingly taken without the consent of the person depicted	Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months	Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months Victim <18 Class H felony \$10,000 / 6 years	Possessing or distributing a nude photo without consent	Yes	Yes

Invasion of Privacy (942.08) & Depicting Nudity (942.09) Criminal Penalties

Depicting Nudity – Revenge Porn						
Statute	Charge	Penalty under Current Law	Penalty under AB 566 / SB 452	Act	Photo	Distribute
942.09 (3m) (a) 1 942.09 (3m) (a) 2 <u>AB 521 / SB 410</u>	Posts or publishes a depiction of a person that he or she knows is a private representation, without the consent of the person depicted	Class A Misdemeanor \$10,000 / 9 months <u>AB 521 / SB 410</u> Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months	Class A Misdemeanor \$10,000 / 9 months Victim <18 Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months	Distributing or publishing a photo without consent, photo was taken with consent (Revenge Porn)	Yes	Yes
Depicting Nudity – Locker Rooms						
942.09 (5) (a)	Intentionally captures a representation of a nude or partially nude person while they are in a locker room	Class B Misdemeanor \$1,000 / 90 days	Class A Misdemeanor \$10,000 / 9 months Victim <18 Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months	Capturing a photograph without consent	Yes	No
942.09 (5) (b) 1 a 942.09 (5) (b) 1 b	Intentionally captures a representation of a nude or person while they are in a locker room and distributes, transmits, broadcasts, or exhibits	Class A Misdemeanor \$10,000 / 9 months	Class I Felony \$10,000 / 3 years, 6 months Victim <18 Class H felony \$10,000 / 6 years	Capturing and distributing a photograph without consent	Yes	Yes

10/30/2015

Christina Walker

Kenosha, WI

Honorable S. Michael Wilk
912 56th Street
Branch 7, Courtroom 100
Kenosha, WI 53140

Dear Judge S. Michael Wilk,

On April 7th, 2014, my world shattered and the way I live my life changed forever. My ten year-old daughter was now a victim of a crime, and instantly I was too. What began as a regular completion of swim practice for my ten year-old daughter who is on a competitive swim team at the Pleasant Prairie Rec Plex in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin quickly turned into my daughter being a victim to a crime no parent would ever want their child to fall prey to.

Completely by accident, I discovered two video cameras in the sanctity and safety of the women's locker room. The video cameras were placed in adjacent lockers recording the very section of the locker room that my daughter was in minutes before, entirely nude, changing out of her bathing suit and into her pajamas. While I was sitting and waiting in the locker room for the police officer to be done collecting evidence, Melissa walked in the locker room with her 11 month old baby on her hip. She immediately looked shocked that a police officer was looking at the contents of the lockers that she had placed her items in. When the officer asked Melissa if these were her items and if the video cameras were placed by her. Melissa admitted that these were items and that she had placed the video cameras in the lockers. She also admitted that she removed my daughter's belongings from her locker and brought them to the lost and found at the front desk. Later in the investigation it was determined that the reason she removed my daughters items, was because Melissa wanted the prime locker location. This offered the longest viewing room in the locker room. I am so thankful that my daughter is diligent with the placement of her items, and that she could specifically tell me where

her items were. Had I have not looked in the lockers for her items I may have not discovered the video cameras and this crime could still be continuing today.

The locker room environment provides an expectation of privacy. This expectation of privacy was violated by Mrs. Melissa A. Wenckebach .

The next 17 months of the investigation and trial preparation were filled with numerous visits to the Pleasant Prairie Police Department. I attended every court hearing, which resulted in more than 70 hours of lost work time. And when I have been at work, I have had difficulty concentrating on the task at hand.

But lost work and lack of concentration is the least of the aftermath of this crime.

When a child's safety is violated by an adult, the trauma ripples through the whole family. This investigation has impacted the health and well-being of my family. Personally, I have experienced countless hours of distress, worrying and strife. I feel a deep down brokenness that can't be resolved. And I've lost count of the many sleepless nights I stayed up, worrying about the impact this would have on my daughters and the rest of our family.

I never had these issues before Melissa committed this crime. I can't even count all the hours I spent sobbing, rethinking, doubting, and worrying about my role as a mother. I felt that I failed at the #1 job of being a mother. My job as a mother is to protect my child from any and all dangers and predators of the world. Melissa took that confidence away from me. I will never get that back.

Prior to this crime, I have always had a positive outlook on life in general. I never doubted that all people had good in their hearts. I was not cynical, judgmental, or overly cautious. Melissa took my easy-going, carefree spirit away from me, I will never get that back. I now look at life completely differently. I am quick to assume the worst, I walk more cautiously everywhere I go, I incessantly look over my shoulder, and I always suspect that something is wrong in any given situation. Melissa took away my peace of mind and replaced it with fear and anxiety. I am fearful of locker room and bathroom situations, as well as dressing rooms and places of the like, even though those areas carry an expectation of privacy.

My daughters now feel the same burden as I do. Sadly, this incident has taught my daughters that there are bad people in the world and that they have to remain vigilant, even in a situation where privacy is expected. I had to work hard to assure my youngest daughter that she was a victim of a crime, and she should take no blame in this instance. My daughters no longer feel safe and they see potential danger in the most mundane places. I had to explain things to a young child that no mother should ever have to at this age. I had to explain what nudity, pornography, victimization, and violation is. I had to explain what Melissa did was completely wrong not to mention illegal. I had to spend many hours reassuring her that it was OK to go back to the locker room, but to do it in a very cautious manner. I worry that the long-term effects of this event will damage their development and personal trust. This crime that Melissa committed took the innocence of my eleven and thirteen year-old daughters away, they will never get that back.

My heart is fraught with worry constantly. With the state of technology in the world today, I have no reassurance that my daughter's nude images are contained in the secured evidence. I have no guarantee that someday her nude images won't show up on the internet. I have no security in knowing that she is 100% safe, Melissa stole that security away from both of us.

By committing the heinous crime, Melissa has brought a tremendous amount of unhappiness into my home. My family has suffered greatly as I am often distracted and short tempered; this is a direct result of dealing with these court cases. Listening to all of the court proceedings which detail specific sexual acts, fetishes, and dark sides of Melissa & Karl's lives, has taken a toll on my emotional well-being. Through the love and support of my friends and family I am getting through this. I will never be the same as I was before April 7th, 2014. Melissa took that away from me.

Melissa committed this crime while in the presence of her own baby. Her 11 month old baby was now in the middle of the crime. As a mother it is absolutely unfathomable that a mother would violate the privacy of another mother's child.

While I appreciate the cooperation Melissa had provided to the investigation. I in no way excuse her behavior. Melissa made the decision to place the cameras in the lockers. In locker rooms where children would undress, where coworkers would undress, where family members would undress, where peoples basic civil right would be

violated. Melissa made that same decision every time she placed a camera. Over a three year period she provided hours and hours of video footage to Karl J. Landt. She did this of her own volition, there was no one holding a gun to her head every day. Melissa MADE THE DECISION and she continued for years to make this same decision. This crime would not have been possible if Melissa did not make the decision to violate people's privacy over and over again. Melissa is the key to the crime. She is the one that placed the cameras and deserves to be punished as so.

Your Honor, I was in the courtroom the day that Melissa decided to take the plea deal offered by the District Attorney's Office. The hours and days spent preparing for a trial that was never to be, was spent with much care and concern that my testimony would be heard. I was in the courtroom the day that Melissa stated on record that she was pleading guilty to forty-seven Class I Felonies, one of which was for the victimization of my **ten year-old** daughter.

Since I was not given the chance to testify, I want you to know the depth of my family's pain and suffering. I want you to have a clear message that the crime that Melissa committed against my **ten year-old** daughter along with the other forty-six known victims should be taken extremely seriously and should carry a very heavy sentence.

I am requesting that when making your sentencing decision you take my statement into account. Taking into consideration that these crimes were committed over a number of years, that they were pre-meditated, that the history of the actions of Melissa are an extreme danger to the community, that some of the victims of this crime were minors, and that there is no remorse from Melissa for the crimes she committed. I am formally requesting that you sentence Melissa with the maximum penalty allowed by law. I am asking that you sentence Melissa to 1.5 years of confinement in a prison facility for every crime she was convicted of, that you impose the maximum supervision sentence of 2 years for every crime she was convicted of, and that you impose the maximum financial penalty of \$10,000 per conviction, and that you mandate that Melissa is a lifetime registrant of the National Sex Offender Registry. This would result in a sentence of 70.5 years of confinement in a secure prison facility, 94 years of extended supervision, a financial penalty of \$470,000, and a lifetime commitment of being on The National Sex Offender Registry.

I have some words for Melissa.

Melissa, how could you do this? In what world did you ever think this was OK? Melissa, how would you feel if that was your child? How would you feel if some stranger had videos of your child completely nude? How would you feel if you could not guarantee your child that their images may show up on the internet someday? How can I explain to my daughter that another mother committed this heinous crime against her? How can I tell her that not all mothers follow the MOM CODE? The MOM CODE that all mothers should follow is to protect all children; yours or not we are always supposed to protect each other's children. Melissa I truly hope you spend your time in prison thinking of the trauma you have caused so many families. What you did was inexcusable. I want you to know the pain that everyone in this courtroom has felt. I want you to know that we are hurting, that we are jaded, that we have all lost trust in society, and that we will all live with trust issues the rest of our lives. Melissa you did this to us!

Your Honor, Thank you for the time and dedication that you have given to these cases.

Sincerely,

Christina Walker

9/18/2015

Christina Walker
9907 68th Street
Kenosha, WI 53142

Honorable S. Michael Wilk
912 56th Street
Branch 7, Courtroom 100
Kenosha, WI 53140

Dear Judge S. Michael Wilk,

On April 7th, 2014, my world shattered and the way I live my life changed forever. My ten year-old daughter was now a victim of a crime, and instantly I was too. What began as a regular completion of swim practice for my ten year-old daughter who is on a competitive swim team at the Pleasant Prairie Rec Plex in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin quickly turned into my daughter being a victim to a crime no parent would ever want their child to fall prey to.

Completely by accident, I discovered two video cameras in the sanctity and safety of the women's locker room. The video cameras were placed in adjacent lockers recording the very section of the locker room that my daughter was in minutes before, entirely nude, changing out of her bathing suit and into her pajamas.

The locker room environment provides an expectation of privacy. This expectation of privacy was violated by Mr. Karl J. Landt and his accomplice Mrs. Melissa A. Wenckebach. I immediately removed my child from the locker room and called the proper authorities, and that's when the 17-month long investigation began.

The next 17 months of the investigation and trial preparation were filled with numerous visits to the Pleasant Prairie Police Department. I attended every court hearing, which resulted in more than 70 hours of lost work time. And when I have been at work, I have had difficulty concentrating on the task at hand.

But lost work and lack of concentration is the least of the aftermath of this crime.

When a child's safety is violated by an adult, the trauma ripples through the whole family. This investigation has impacted the health and well-being of my family. Personally, I have experienced countless hours of distress, worrying and strife. I feel a deep down brokenness that can't be resolved. And I've lost count of the many sleepless nights I stayed up, worrying about the impact this would have on my daughters and the rest of our family.

I never had these issues before KARL committed this crime. I can't even count all the hours I spent sobbing, rethinking, doubting, and worrying about my role as a mother. I felt that I failed at the #1 job of being a mother. My job as a mother is to protect my child from any and all dangers and predators of the world. KARL took that confidence away from me. I will never get that back.

Prior to this crime, I have always had a positive outlook on life in general. I never doubted that all people had good in their hearts. I was not cynical, judgmental, or overly cautious. KARL took my easy-going, carefree spirit away from me, I will never get that back. I now look at life completely differently. I am quick to assume the worst, I walk more cautiously everywhere I go, I incessantly look over my shoulder, and I always suspect that something is wrong in any given situation. KARL took away my peace of mind and replaced it with fear and anxiety. I am fearful of locker room and bathroom situations, as well as dressing rooms and places of the like, even though those areas carry an expectation of privacy.

My daughters now feel the same burden as I do. Sadly, this incident has taught my daughters that there are bad people in the world and that they have to remain vigilant, even in a situation where privacy is expected. I had to work hard to assure my youngest daughter that she was a victim of a crime, and she should take no blame in this instance. My daughters no longer feel safe and they see potential danger in the most mundane places. I had to explain things to a young child that no mother should ever have to at this age. I had to explain what nudity, pornography, victimization, and violation is. I had to explain what KARL did was completely wrong not to mention illegal. I had to spend many hours reassuring her that it was OK to go back to the locker room, but to do it in a very cautious manner. I worry that the long-term effects of this event will damage their development and personal trust. This crime that KARL

committed took the innocence of my ten and eleven year-old daughters away, they will never get that back.

My heart is fraught with worry constantly. With the state of technology in the world today, I have no reassurance that my daughter's nude images are contained in the secured evidence. I have no guarantee that someday her nude images won't show up on the internet. I have no security in knowing that she is 100% safe, Karl stole that security away from both of us.

By committing the heinous crime, Karl has brought a tremendous amount of unhappiness into my home. My family has suffered greatly as I am often distracted and short tempered; this is a direct result of dealing with these court cases. Listening to all of the court proceedings which detail specific sexual acts, fetishes, and dark sides of Karl's life, has taken a toll on my emotional well-being. Through the love and support of my friends and family I am getting through this. I will never be the same as I was before April 7th, 2014. Karl took that away from me.

Your Honor, I was in the courtroom the day that Karl decided to take the plea deal offered by the District Attorney's Office just one business day before the trial was to begin. The hours and days spent preparing for a trial that was never to be, was spent with much care and concern that my testimony would be heard. I was in the courtroom the day that KARL stated on record that he was pleading guilty to forty-seven Class I Felonies, one of which was for the victimization of my **ten year-old** daughter.

Since I was not given the chance to testify, I want you to know the depth of my family's pain and suffering. I want you to have a clear message that the crime that Karl committed against my **ten year-old** daughter along with the other forty-six known victims should be taken extremely seriously and should carry a very heavy sentence.

I am requesting that when making your sentencing decision you take my statement into account. Taking into consideration that these crimes were committed over a number of years, that they were pre-meditated, that the history of the actions of Karl J. Landt are an extreme danger to the community, that the some of the victims of this crime were minors, and that there is no remorse from Karl for the crimes he committed. I am formally requesting that you sentence KARL with the maximum penalty allowed by law. I am asking that you sentence Karl to 1.5 years of

confinement in a prison facility for every crime he was convicted of, that you impose the maximum supervision sentence of 2 years for every crime he was convicted of, and that you impose the maximum financial penalty of \$10,000 per conviction, and that you mandate that Karl is a lifetime registrant of the National Sex Offender Registry. This would result in a sentence of 70.5 years of confinement in a secure prison facility, 94 years of extended supervision, a financial penalty of \$470,000, and a lifetime commitment of being on The National Sex Offender Registry.

Your Honor, Thank you for the time and dedication that you have given to these cases.

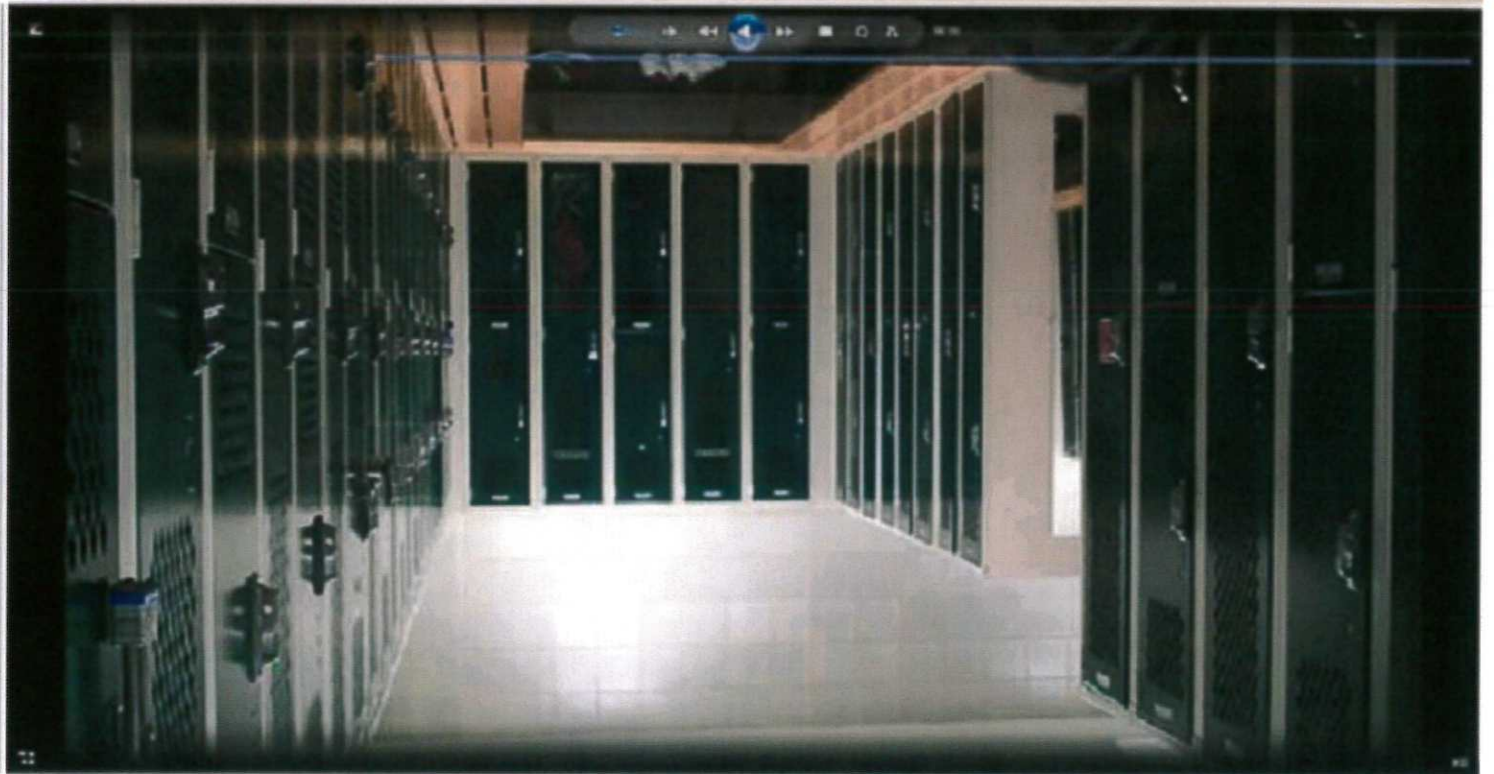
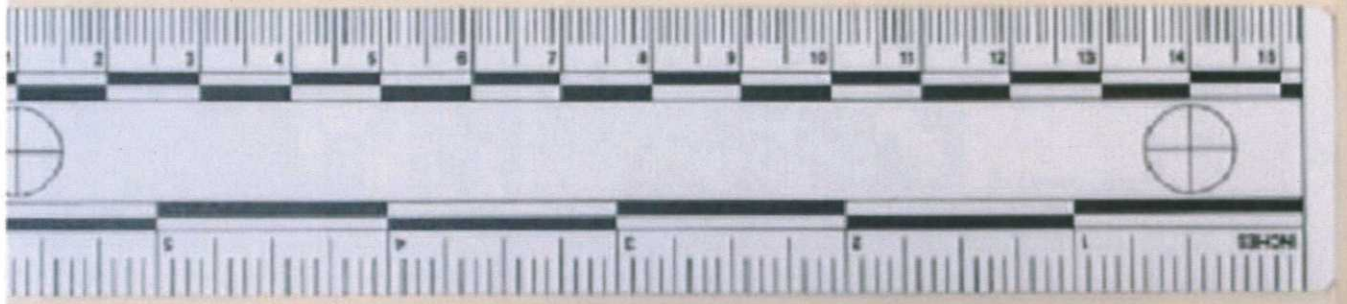
Sincerely,

Christina Walker

1/13/2016

Good ~~Morning~~ ^{Afternoon}

Hello I'm _____ and I am here today to support my Mom and Representative Kerkman with getting a law changed. This law came to our minds last year when I was a victim of a crime. I was video tapped in my locker room getting dressed after swim practice and I now know this was wrong and illegal. My Mom told me that the punishment for the criminals is the same for an adult victim as a child victim. I knew that the punishment should be different for any person under 18. Kids cannot protect themselves the same way that an adult can and we should be protected by stronger laws with stronger punishments. I feel that by making the punishment stronger that criminals will be less likely to make another kid feel the same way I did. Thank you for your consideration, I hope you see why this is an important law to change.



939.50 Classification of felonies

939.51 Classification of misdemeanors

939.52 Classification of forfeitures

	Felonies fine or imprisonment or both not to exceed		Misdemeanors fine or imprisonment or both not to exceed		Forfeitures not to exceed
Class A		life	\$10,000	9 months	\$10,000
Class B		60 years	\$1,000	90 days	\$1,000
Class C	\$100,000	40 years	\$500	30 days	\$500
Class D	\$100,000	25 years			\$200
Class E	\$50,000	15 years			\$25
Class F	\$25,000	12 years & 6 months			
Class G	\$25,000	10 years			
Class H	\$10,000	6 years			
Class I	\$10,000	3 years & 6 months			

KENOSHA NEWS

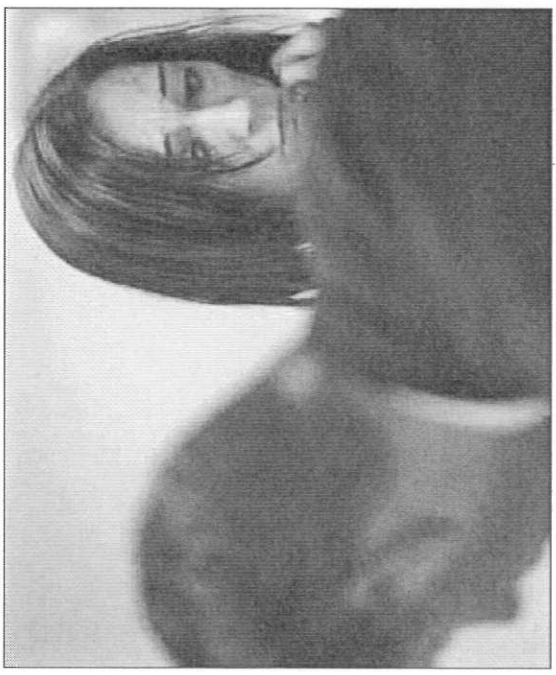


© 2015 Kenosha News division of United Communications, A Source of Trust.®

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2015

★★★\$1.00

Guilty plea in secret video case



Melissa Wenckebach enters court Thursday. She pleaded guilty to 47 counts of capturing an image of nudity without the subject's consent by secretly setting up video cameras in women's locker rooms.

Woman set up cameras inside RecPlex, Uline

BY KATIE TABELING
ktabeling@kenoshanews.com

A woman accused of secretly taking videos of people in locker rooms at the Pleasant Prairie RecPlex and Uline pleaded guilty Thursday morning to 47 felony charges.

Melissa Wenckebach, 28, of Pleasant Prairie, was charged with 262 counts of capturing an image of nudity without the subject's consent. As part of her plea agreement with prosecutors, all but the 47 counts to which she pleaded guilty will be dismissed, though the facts behind them

can be considered when she is sentenced.

Each charge comes with a maximum sentence of 18 months in prison and two years on supervised release. Wenckebach is expected to be required to register as a sex offender for 15 years.

Wenckebach and Karl Landt, co-workers at Uline, were charged in 2014 for secretly filming women in locker rooms at the RecPlex and their company's Pleasant Prairie corporate campus. Wenckebach told police she placed the cameras at Landt's

request, according to reports, and then turned the footage over to him. The video cameras are believed to have been placed in locker rooms dozens of times between 2011 and when she was caught in April 2014. According to court documents, the cameras primarily recorded adult women, along with at least five girls between the ages of 6 and 10, and a man.

Prosecutors and police were able to identify 47 of the dozens of people whose images were captured on the video.

The cameras were discovered when a RecPlex member noticed a camera positioned near the grate of a locker. Two small cameras — one in an upper locker and one in lower — had views of the locker room.

As police investigated,

Wenckebach came into the locker room and admitted the cameras were hers. She also gave police access to her email account, where they found several messages from Landt criticizing the quality of videos.

According to Pleasant Prairie Police, images found among those in possession of Landt and Wenckebach appear to have been taken at Uline. No cameras were found at Uline during the investigation in April 2014.

Landt pleaded guilty in July to 47 counts of capturing an image of nudity without the subject's consent in July. He is scheduled for sentencing on Sept. 18.

As a result of the investigation, Landt was also charged in Illinois with 20 counts of possession of child pornography; that case is still pending.

KENOSHA NEWS

© 2014 Kenosha News division of United Communications, A Source of Trust.®

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014

★★★ \$1.00

Hidden cameras found; 2 arrested

Discovery made in women's locker room at RecPlex

BY JANINE ANDERSON
janderson@kenoshanews.com

PLEASANT PRAIRIE — A Pleasant Prairie woman and a Waukegan, Ill., man are under arrest for hiding cameras in a RecPlex locker room.

Police don't yet know how long cameras found Monday evening in RecPlex lockers had been in place, or what may have been done with any videos captured.

A patron of the village-owned fitness center told



staff she saw something that looked like a camera positioned near the grate of a locker. When staff checked it out, they found two very small cameras, one in an upper locker and another in a lower, both aimed out the grates, with views of the women's locker room.

As police investigated, a



Melissa Wenckebach



Karl Landt

woman came into the locker room and admitted owning the cameras. Melissa Wenckebach, 27, was arrested. She is being held on a \$3,000 cash bond.

"There was a whirlwind of activity" after the cameras were discovered, Pleasant Prairie Police Chief David Smetana said in a Wednesday news conference.

Police went to Waukegan on Tuesday and searched the home of a 36-year-old man, and took him into custody. They recovered "numerous similar cameras," during the investigation, Smetana said.

While Smetana did not name the male defendant, Wenckebach's bond precludes her from having contact with a potential co-defendant, Karl J. Landt.

Investigation continuing

The investigation is just beginning, Smetana said. Police do not know how many women were videotaped, and have yet to identify any victims, he said.

"This is a very sensitive

investigation," Smetana said. "This will be a long-term investigation, and we are asking for people's patience."

Wenckebach became a RecPlex member three months ago, Smetana said, and police have not yet determined when the cameras were put into the lockers.

Acquaintances

Wenckebach and the man arrested were acquaintances, Smetana said, and both worked at Uline. Wenckebach was arrested on a felony charge, representations depicting nudity; Landt was arrested for being party to that offense.

Wenckebach appeared in

court Tuesday for a bond hearing, held at the same time as the Pleasant Prairie press conference. She and Landt are also expected in court today.

"This was an incredible violation of privacy," Smetana said. "We will be as forthright (with victims) as we are to you. ... We haven't gone through all the evidence yet. What we saw was sufficient to take two people into custody."

Smetana said people who feel their image may have been captured by the cameras or who have information about the case can contact police at 262-948-8910 or by email at policehotline@plprairie.com.

Lifelong scrutiny for locker room spy

KENOSHA NEWS | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 | A1

BY JANINE ANDERSON

janderson@kenoshanews.com

Women filled the courtroom Friday, waiting to see what would happen with Karl Landt, the man believed to be the one who wanted videos of them changing in locker rooms at the Pleasant Prairie RecPlex and Uline.

They waited for hours, packed into hard wooden benches and chairs placed in the aisles, for Landt's sentencing hearing before Kenosha County Circuit Judge S. Michael Wilk. Wilk kept the hearing going through lunch, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

At the end, after hearing from six victims, two attorneys and Landt, he structured a sentence that should keep the defendant under supervision for the rest of his life. Landt was taken into custody immediately, and led out of the courtroom by deputies.

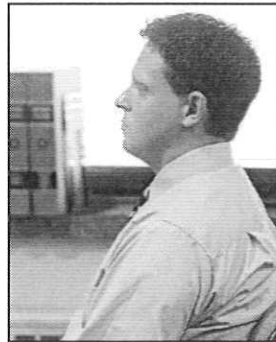
Several women pulled out their cellphones and snapped photos or video of him being taken away. One woman held up both of her middle fingers at him as he walked past.

Hundreds of counts

Landt, 37, of Waukegan, Ill., and his accomplice, Melissa Wenckebach, 28, of Pleasant Prairie, were both charged with hundreds of counts of conspiring to capture images of nudity without the subject's consent, for years of clandestine taping with cameras hidden in lockers and gym bags.

Wenckebach told police that she made the videos at Landt's request; he claims she was the one who wanted the videos taken.

Both entered guilty pleas to 47 counts each, which



KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO
BY KEVIN POIRIER

Karl Landt appears in court Friday, where he was sentenced to 12 years in prison and 61 years of supervised release for his role in planting hidden video cameras in women's locker rooms.

came with the possibility for 70.5 years in prison.

Landt was given 12 years in prison, followed by 61 years on supervised release — a total sentence that would end when he was 110 years old. He must also register as a sex offender.

"A sexual relationship between consenting adults is generally not a matter for the courts," Wilk said, but Landt's actions "to create titillating fuel for your sexual fires" were unacceptable.

Victims speak

Six people affected by the crimes spoke with the court. Five were women who said the effects of the pair's actions are felt every day; the sixth was a man who works at Uline and spoke about how this has affected the company.

The woman who first saw the video cameras in a Rec-

See **CAMERAS**, Page A9

CAMERAS: Victims describe impact of secret surveillance in locker rooms

From **Page A1**

Plex locker room spoke; she said she later learned that her daughter's images were among those captured.

"My job as a mother is to protect my child from any and all dangers and predators of the world," she said. "Karl took that confidence away from me. I will never get that back."

A woman who worked at Uline said that as soon as the RecPlex story came out, and they saw Landt and Wenckebach fired, they knew what was coming. The company provides a fitness center for employees to use, and Wenckebach repeatedly brought a camera in to record coworkers changing.

"It's hard not to feel it's your fault," the woman said. "What kind of sick, twisted individuals do you have to be to do this?"

47 years sought

Deputy District Attorney Michael Graveley asked Wilk

to give Landt 47 years in prison, one for each of the victims they were able to identify in the thousands of images found on his 5-terabyte hard drive. At Landt's apartment, Graveley said, they found videos that would have taken more than two years of 24-hour playback to get through.

"The scope and breadth of criminal behavior and conspiracy here is staggering," Graveley said. "Numerous children. Again and again, the violation of people he personally knew. Who he saw in the cafeteria. Who he smiled at at work."

"That takes a special character — from the state's perspective a particularly dangerous person — who can victimize people as profoundly as these cases would victimize people when you know those people."

Graveley said Landt groomed Wenckebach to help him, and that he tried the same thing with several other women, including one who appeared to have been

jealous when she found out Wenckebach had been helping with the videos.

Co-defendant blamed

Defense attorney Jonathan Carver Smith said Landt was roped into participating by Wenckebach. She was the one who wanted the videos, and Smith said she "set the stage for this."

"None of this is possible without Melissa Wenckebach," he said.

She was the one who went into the locker rooms with the cameras, Smith said, even hiding them while on a family trip to the Wisconsin Dells.

Smith asked Wilk to give Landt five to nine years in prison.

Landt also addressed the court.

"I am incredibly sorry for what happened," he said. "I tried to live my life in a way that was positive to other people. I have failed as much as it is possible to do."

Wenckebach is scheduled to be sentenced in October.