



The Law - Young People, Parents and Schools

STUDY GUIDE

Program 3: Privacy

First broadcast – 8.30pm Monday 14 September 2009. 89.7, PBA FM in Adelaide, South Australia
Producer/Presenter: Tony Ryan Education Consultant: Greg Carey
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Program summary

Today we continue to explore issues around the rights of the child and the duty of care that schools owe to their students, with a special focus on the young person's right to privacy. Given reasonable grounds, what are the rights of parents in relation to a young person's diary, or the school's right to search a student's locker? The program ends with a brief reference to medical decision making and the right to privacy of young people. The point is made that the child should not be treated as "a lesser person" simply on the grounds of age.

Interviewees

Margaret Coady, Senior Lecturer, Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne
David Thomson, Teacher-in-residence, Victoria Law Foundation, Melbourne

Listen

Download this program – from www.learningworksradio.com – and listen at home or in your car, or in a group around a table at home or in the staff room. Duration approx 15 mins.

Table Talk

Use these questions as springboards to a discussion on some of the issues raised in the program. Before you end the discussion, agree on some action outcomes.

A parent may have a strong suspicion that a child is in some form of physical or moral danger. If so, what are some appropriate actions a parent might take?

Schools may have the right to check bags and lockers if they have reasonable suspicion. What should the school's protocols for searching look like?

Parents expect that steps will be taken by the school to protect students from physical harm at school. Some schools may have a total "no intervention" policy? What are the advantages – and maybe disadvantages – of this policy?

The perception of a child's privacy may be seen very differently by the child, the parents and the school. How can schools ensure that the child's legal right to privacy can be upheld yet respect these differing views.

Some people have argued that teaching young people about their rights may lead to a generation that is only concerned with their own rights. From your own experience, might this be the case? Discuss from both perspectives.

Resources

To guide your discussion,

Australian Human Rights Commission website- Children's Rights

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/human_rights/children/index.html

Law Stuff - know your rights website

www.lawstuff.org.au

