

New Jersey School Hidden Camera Incident Highlights Need for Privacy-Security Inspections, USA Bugsweeps Says

Waterford Township case demonstrates how ordinary electronic devices can create serious privacy vulnerabilities in schools and other sensitive facilities

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-- The recent discovery of a cellphone allegedly placed inside a faculty restroom at Waterford Elementary School in Waterford Township, New Jersey, is drawing attention to a security challenge facing schools and other organizations: detecting unauthorized recording devices in areas where conventional security cameras cannot be used.

According to the Waterford Township Police Department, authorities were notified on August 14, 2026, after a cellphone was discovered recording inside a faculty restroom at Waterford Elementary School.

Police subsequently charged 20-year-old Skyler Moore of Clementon, New Jersey, with two counts of invasion of privacy and one count of tampering with evidence.

Published reports citing court documents state that an adult victim discovered the cellphone concealed with a towel and cleaning supplies while the device was actively recording. Moore later acknowledged to Philadelphia television station 6abc that he placed the cellphone in the restroom.

Waterford Township Police reported that a forensic examination of the device found no content involving students or juveniles. The school district also reported that school was not in session at the time of the incident and that Moore was subsequently terminated from his position.

For [USA Bugsweeps, Inc.](#), a [New Jersey-based Technical Surveillance Countermeasures company](#), the incident illustrates how dramatically the threat posed by unauthorized surveillance has changed.



USA Bugsweeps Logo

“People hear the term ‘hidden camera’ and often picture a sophisticated spy camera concealed inside an everyday object,” said Michael Auletta, President and CEO of USA Bugsweeps. “The reality is that almost everyone now carries a high-definition camera and recording device in their pocket. A cellphone, miniature Wi-Fi camera or inexpensive battery-powered device can potentially be concealed very quickly in an area where people expect privacy.”

Privacy-Sensitive Areas Present a Unique Security Challenge

Restrooms, locker rooms, changing areas and similar locations create an unusual security problem for schools, businesses and other organizations.

Traditional video surveillance can help protect entrances, hallways, parking areas and other common spaces. Those systems, however, generally cannot be used inside areas where individuals have a heightened expectation of privacy.

That leaves organizations with a different question: how do they determine whether someone else has introduced an unauthorized recording device into those spaces?

“Security cameras can protect a hallway outside a restroom or locker room, but they cannot tell administrators whether an unauthorized recording device has been concealed inside,” Auletta said. “Protecting these areas requires a different approach. The objective isn't additional surveillance. The objective is detecting unauthorized surveillance.”

Hidden Cameras Are Increasingly Accessible

Unauthorized recording devices no longer require specialized technical knowledge or expensive equipment.

Modern miniature cameras can be purchased inexpensively and may be incorporated into or disguised as common objects. Other devices can record directly to internal storage, transmit video over Wi-Fi or other radio frequencies, or be temporarily placed in a location and retrieved later.

Even an ordinary smartphone can function as a temporary covert recording device.

These differences are significant when conducting a [Technical Surveillance Countermeasures inspection](#), commonly referred to as a TSCM inspection or “bug sweep.”

Professional TSCM inspections use multiple detection methods because no single technology can identify every potential surveillance device.

Depending on the environment and circumstances, an inspection can include detailed physical examination, radio-frequency analysis, nonlinear junction detection, wireless network analysis

and other specialized counter-surveillance techniques.

"A professional inspection has to be layered," Auletta said. "Some devices transmit a signal and some don't. Some record locally. Others communicate over Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Physical inspection remains extremely important because technology alone is not a substitute for knowing what to look for."

Schools May Want to Reevaluate Privacy-Security Procedures

USA Bugsweeps recommends that schools and other organizations responsible for privacy-sensitive facilities evaluate their procedures for detecting and responding to suspected unauthorized recording devices.

Potentially sensitive areas can include faculty and student restrooms, locker rooms, changing areas, nurses' offices, counseling areas, private offices and other locations where individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Organizations may also consider inspections following construction or maintenance work, unauthorized access, use of facilities by outside contractors or organizations, reports of suspicious activity, or other circumstances that increase the potential for unauthorized surveillance.

Periodic proactive inspections may also be appropriate for facilities with elevated privacy or security concerns.

"The Waterford incident raises a question that administrators everywhere should be considering," Auletta said. "If someone placed an unauthorized recording device inside one of our privacy-sensitive areas, what procedures do we currently have in place to detect it?"

"Organizations should be thinking about that question before an incident occurs, not for the first time after someone discovers a device."

About USA Bugsweeps, Inc.

USA Bugsweeps, Inc. is a professional Technical Surveillance Countermeasures company specializing in the detection of hidden cameras, covert listening devices, unauthorized wireless surveillance equipment, GPS tracking devices and other electronic surveillance threats.

The company provides residential, corporate, institutional and vehicle TSCM inspections throughout the United States.

USA Bugsweeps President and CEO Michael Auletta has more than 10 years of experience in the Technical Surveillance Countermeasures industry and has completed specialized TSCM training

through Research Electronics International (REI). Auletta is also licensed by the New Jersey State Police as a private detective.

USA Bugsweeps utilizes professional TSCM equipment and layered inspection methodologies designed to identify transmitting and non-transmitting surveillance threats.

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