

# HARASSMENT CONSULTING CENTER NEWS

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Now there is some news of cherry blossoms and you may be busy with expectation at the beginning of the new academic year.

This issue of center news features “camera voyeurism”. Smartphone and tablet PC are popular in these days and we take photos and videos quite often and easily. They are very convenient tools. But we may cause serious troubles if we use them improperly. Let’s reconsider the points which we should look out for.

“Camera voyeurism” means the act that you secretly take photos or videos without the consent of the person managing the photographic subject/object. It is a distinct crime regulated by the Minor Offences Act and the Nuisance Prevention Ordinance of local government.

## ~Not to be a victim of camera voyeurism~

Camera voyeurism is usually performed by taking photos or videos of upskirt and chest cleavage from back and feet of women by using cameras (hidden inside bag) or cell phones (hidden in palm).

The most important point is to raise the level of crime prevention awareness (to be careful around) when you wear a skirt. Be careful of your back and feet during rush hours or when you use stairs or escalator, watch exhibits at museums, etc., or write on blackboard or whiteboard. When you find someone holding bag or cell phone unnaturally or coming closer, it is better to stop and let the person go first.

If you suffer damage...

When you suffer damage of camera voyeurism, you may be worried like “It is my fault” or “I do not want anyone to know about it”. However, it is never your fault. **The person who did camera voyeurism is to blame.**

Please talk with people around or consult “Harassment Consulting Center” first. Our center is bound by confidentiality and your secret information is never leaked out. We will discuss with you about the way to deal with the problem.

## ~Not to be suspected that you did camera voyeurism~

In Shizuoka prefecture, a man was arrested for doing camera voyeurism of a woman's lower body in the act of the Nuisance Prevention Ordinance (obscene words/actions). The woman wore pants not skirt. In this case, (1) the woman accused the man of camera voyeurism, (2) there was an objective evidence of recorded videos, and (3) the man admitted to the charges. The arrest was approved due to the 3 facts. The case shows that taking photos/videos above clothes can be judged to be a violation of the ordinance depending on the recorded part of the body, time, and distance to the subject/object. There were similar cases in Chiba and Kanagawa prefectures that the persons who secretly took photos/videos above clothes were arrested.

Under the Nuisance Prevention Ordinance of the Aichi prefecture, "anyone makes the other person feel ashamed or anxious in public place or vehicle" will be punished. Not only taking photos/videos of underwear is considered to be "camera voyeurism".



**Can you say with confidence that you do not make people around feel unpleasant or anxious? Can you say with confidence that you do not do anything which can be considered to be "camera voyeurism" ? Shall we reconsider what we are usually doing on this occasion?**



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