



Considerations for Cell Phone Cameras in the Facility

With the development of cell phones equipped with video equipment, facility managers, specifically those with changing and/or locker rooms, have had to develop policies to limit the possible misuse of these devices. The possibility of unauthorized video recording of people changing or of minors is too great to not focus attention on the issue.

Generally, the only photography allowed in a private facility is through the express written consent of the Executive Director and/or for the organization's purposes only (with permission). There have been many new products on the market designed for the "spy" demographic that have been used for unethical purposes. Cameras the sizes of pens, wireless video equipment hidden in gym bags or in inconspicuous locations, and now the camera or video recording in a cell phone are examples. This is just another format that needs to be identified as a possible threat.

Some of the techniques being used to prevent unauthorized photography by cell phones are:

1. Completely banning cell phones from the facility
2. Limiting the use of cell phones to only the lobby area while banning the use of them throughout the rest of the facility.
3. Simply warning members and guests of the threat of the situation and that they should be on the lookout
4. Ignoring the situation and hoping nothing will happen in their facility

Option number 2 is the best for control of the facility and empowering the staff to act against those who break the rules. Signage should be posted at the entrance, desk and locker rooms that remind patrons of the policy. Failure to comply should garner an immediate warning and reminder of the policy. If the behavior continues, they should be suspended and finally their facility privileges should be revoked. In the event that a cell phone is necessary for a work related reason (doctor, police, EMS, etc.), they should identify themselves to staff prior to entering the facility. It should be explained to them that the camera-equipped phones are not allowed within the facility and that they are not allowed to use their phone in the locker room areas. If they absolutely need to be on their cell phone, it should be in a common area or at the designated location similar to the rest of the members and guests.