

Coldspring-Oakhurst Consolidated ISD

14210 TX-150, Coldspring TX 77331

Phone: 936-653-1115

From: Angela Allen, Chief of Police

To: Students and Parents

Re: Important Legal Information and School Policy Enforcement

Dear Students and Parents,

As we begin another school year, we want to ensure all families are informed about important legal requirements that help keep our campus safe. I am writing to inform you about important legal matters that we are hoping to avoid here at Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD. Please review this information carefully with your family.

Invasive Visual Recording - A Serious Criminal Offense

Under Texas Penal Code Section 21.15, **Invasive Visual Recording is a state jail felony**. This law prohibits the unauthorized recording of another person in private spaces or intimate areas.

What constitutes this offense: • Recording someone's intimate areas (genitals, buttocks, breasts, etc.) without consent • Recording in private spaces like bathrooms or changing rooms • Recording with intent to invade privacy • Distributing or promoting such recordings

Consequences: • **State jail felony** conviction • 180 days to 2 years in state jail • Fines up to \$10,000

Remember: Even if someone appears clothed, recording intimate areas without consent is illegal when they have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Cell Phone Policy (HB 1481)

Regarding the new cell phone regulations in schools:

What will NOT result in criminal charges: • Violations of the school's cell phone policy

What WILL result in criminal charges: • Using profane language toward staff members • Assaulting staff members who enforce school policies • Any disrespectful or violent behavior toward school personnel

Penalties range from Class C misdemeanors to felonies. We ask that you communicate respectfully with our staff regarding this policy or any other school matters.

Threats - All Types Are Taken Seriously

Making threats of any kind can result in serious criminal charges under Texas law:

Types of threat-related charges: • **Assault by Threat** (Texas Penal Code § 22.01) - Threatening imminent bodily harm • **Terroristic Threat** (Texas Penal Code § 22.07) - Threats intended to cause fear or disrupt public services • **Harassment** (Texas Penal Code § 42.07) - Repeated threatening communications • **Stalking** (Texas Penal Code § 42.072) - Pattern of threatening behavior

Important facts about threats: • Verbal threats can be criminal offenses • Intent to actually carry out the threat is not required • Even "joking" threats can result in criminal charges • The recipient's reasonable fear is what matters, not the speaker's intent

For more information about the seriousness of making threats, please watch this educational video:
https://youtu.be/d6h_vgSXGDo

Our Commitment

We are committed to ensuring a safe and positive learning environment for all students at COCISD. The COCISD Police Department will be enforcing these laws to the fullest extent.

We look forward to working together with students and families for a successful school year. If you have questions about these policies or need clarification, please contact the school administration at 936-653-1115.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

Respectfully,

Angela Allen
Chief of Police
Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD