



BC Crime Prevention Association

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I have heard of members going too far in their investigations including one case of video surveillance inside the suspects home with line of site into her bedroom! (granted honest attempts were made to turn camera off if suspect was undressing or engaging in intimate activity- all recordings in error were immediately erased)

Q: Could this be considered a violation of the BC Privacy Act?.

Q: If so, would this not be considered an even greater "wrong" than that committed by an individual smoking marijuana in her bedroom?

Q: Are members aware of a citizens right to privacy, and the societal reasons why this right has been held so sacred by society/courts for hundreds of years?

A: We assume that by using the term "members" you are referring to police officers. It is unclear from your question whether live video was being shot inside the home or whether clandestine cameras had been installed to record criminal activity and images remotely transmitted to an offsite location where the footage was monitored. If the latter, any camera installation would only be authorized pursuant to the appropriate prior legal approvals (such as a search warrant) and whatever evidence is recorded is subject to the scrutiny of the courts. Because such surveillance is conducted under federal laws BC privacy legislation would not likely apply. Yes, police members are aware of citizens' rights to privacy and such training is provided early on in police training. Such rights have to be weighed against the interests of the pursuit of criminal justice.