


The Right to Privacy

By Caroline Kennedy, Ellen Alderman

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The Right to Privacy By Caroline Kennedy, Ellen Alderman

Can the police strip-search a woman who has been arrested for a minor traffic violation? Can a magazine publish an embarrassing photo of you without your permission? Does your boss have the right to read your email? Can a company monitor its employees' off-the-job lifestyles--and fire those who drink, smoke, or live with a partner of the same sex? Although the word privacy does not appear in the Constitution, most of us believe that we have an inalienable right to be left alone. Yet in arenas that range from the battlefield of abortion to the information highway, privacy is under siege. In this eye-opening and sometimes hair-raising book, Alderman and Kennedy survey hundreds of recent cases in which ordinary citizens have come up against the intrusions of government, businesses, the news media, and their own neighbors. At once shocking and instructive, up-to-date and rich in historical perspective, **The Right to Private** is an invaluable guide to one of the most charged issues of our time.

"Anyone hoping to understand the sometimes precarious state of privacy in modern America should start by reading this book."--Washington Post Book World

"Skillfully weaves together unfamiliar, dramatic case histories...a book with impressive breadth."--Time

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Coauthors of *In Our Defense: The Bill of Rights in Action*, Alderman and Kennedy here present a pithy and practical casebook on our shrinking right to privacy. The Fourth Amendment, protecting against unreasonable seizures, does not necessarily prevent an arrested person from being strip-searched, and the authors consider a welter of legal and ethical dilemmas involving the clashing interests of people who wish to be left alone and employers, police and the press, whose jobs may make them intrusive. The use of metal detectors and drug tests in schools and workplaces, women's right to abortion and contraception, people suing to squelch reporting by the media, patients' right to refuse further medical treatment or to undergo assisted suicide, and claims against voyeurs are among the issues and conflicts discussed. Also examined are new privacy conflicts arising in the workplace as employers, facing rising health insurance costs and increased liability for employees' actions, demand—and often obtain—more information about their workers. 100,000 first printing; BOMC selection.

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From School Library Journal

YA?Stories of individuals who have gone to court to protect their privacy rights are divided into six legally recognized interests. Extensive notes provide legal citations and, where appropriate, additional commentary. Students may be surprised by the limits of privacy rights, the variations in the law from state to state, and the differences in verdicts among seemingly similar cases. Readers may well be riveted to such narrations as that in *Cooper v. Anderson* (17-year-old Jeff Cooper's friends videotaped him having sex with Debbie Anderson, 19, without Anderson's knowledge or approval). Routine strip searches of women accused of such minor offenses as traffic tickets, right-to-die decisions, ownership of frozen embryos, drug interdiction, televised death, a school administrator's search of a student's pocketbook, and a forced Cesarean section performed on a terminally ill patient against the wishes of her family are all of likely interest to older students. Teachers may effectively choose excerpts to illustrate or elicit discussions. Students may find topics for further research, seek to clarify or advance their legal understanding, or just dip in for the stories.?Barbara Hawkins, Oakton High School, Fairfax, VA

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From Library Journal

Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas once described privacy as a right older than the Bill of Rights. The evolution in the 20th century of a recognized "right of privacy" represents spectacular growth in the areas of tort and constitutional law. Attorneys Alderman and Kennedy expand on a topic only briefly treated in their *In Our Defense: The Bill of Rights in Action* (LJ 1/91). As their preface notes, privacy, although not expressly mentioned in the Constitution, is held by most people to be a basic and fundamental right and a right that is under siege today. Using a series of well-selected court cases, the authors compile a catalog of horrors that represent attacks on privacy, ranging from two-way mirrors in department store dressing rooms and law enforcement "strip" searches to lifestyle enforcement, controversies over contraception and abortion, and right-to-die cases. McLean (journalism, Western Illinois Univ.) has a somewhat familiar purpose: not only to show that Americans view privacy as a fundamental right but to explain why we attach such importance to the concept. McLean all too briefly summarizes the history and evolution of privacy and outlines some of the ways privacy is violated. For many reasons, the Alderman and Kennedy book will be preferred by most readers; by using concrete illustrations, it better defines the notions of privacy under attack in specific instances. The McLean book merely describes in summary fashion the same ideas. Alderman and Kennedy write in a highly readable style and chronicle the vigilance necessary to protect a cherished right;

McLean writes in the fashion of the academy. *The Right to Privacy* is strongly recommended for all libraries.
-?Jerry E. Stephens, *U.S. Court of Appeals Lib., Oklahoma City*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jennifer Lorenzo:

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Latonya Sams:

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Martin Song:

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