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# **CCTV and The Law: What You Need to Know**

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# **CCTV and The Law: What You Need to Know**

## **General Information About Hidden Camera Laws: Are You Breaking the Law?**

With the size of cameras declining so that they can be effectively hidden almost anywhere, it is not surprising that many businesses and even private individuals use them to have some form of surveillance of their premises. In other cases, these kinds of cameras have been used for the shameless purposes of spying on other people, such as neighbors, spouses, or in-home employees.

While in the days of old Hollywood this kind of behavior was actually common knowledge, in modern days there is an outcry against such actions, and if you find yourself on the spying end, you may also find yourself on the receiving end of a summons for lawsuit. Here is a little general information about hidden camera laws – are you breaking the law?

If you are a business, you are free to have cameras on your premises with the exception of areas where customers and employees can reasonable expect physical privacy. Such areas include restrooms, changing rooms, showers, locker rooms, and bedrooms. Employees furthermore may expect privacy in areas such as the employee lounge, the smoking room, the break room, or any other place away from the areas of business where they may congregate to eat lunch, take their breaks, and await the beginning of their shifts.

If you are an employer of union-represented personnel, you will need to ensure that your current union contract permits the installation of hidden cameras. While this usually is not a problem, you will run into difficulties if you seek to dismiss employees who have been caught on camera doing things they are not permitted to do, yet if they did them in an area where they could have been reasonably safe from hidden camera surveillance.

If you are a private individual and would like to listen in on your nanny or just check up on your pool guy, it is important to realize that if you reside in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, South Dakota, and Utah you will be in violation of the law if you install a camera in a private place.

Since your home will have numerous private places, you may find that a nanny or the pool boy may sue you for unauthorized surveillance if they can claim that they were in a location within your home that should have been considered private and therefore off limits.

If you are an installer of small hidden cameras, you will need to understand that in the states of Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Utah you will be help personally liable if you enter a private residence to install a small hidden camera if you do not have the express consent of all parties who reside there.

Thus, if you make your bread and butter as someone who works for parties to a divorce action and you are thinking of installing hidden cameras to prove infidelities, it may be wise to think again.

Please note that these injunctions do not simply pertain to the installation of cameras, but also the installation of sound recording devices.

Sometimes the states not aforementioned will require you to show good evidence that you were recording via a hidden camera for purposes other than seeing a person in the state of partial or complete undress. If you have a camera installed in your bathroom at home to supervise your plumber as he completes the repair on your bathroom, you may very likely get sued since he can reasonably be expected to use the bathroom facilities at some point during his work day, and a hidden camera will catch him in a state of partial undress in a room that should be expected to be private.

If you are still insistent on placing a small hidden camera on your property somewhere, it is wise to consult with a seasoned private investigator that should be well versed about the dos and don'ts of hidden camera surveillance. Similarly, an attorney will also be able to answer your questions. If you do not want to incur the expense of spending an hour of your attorney's time in a question and answer session, consider if there is another method of gaining the information you are seeking that is less controversial.

### **Employee's Rights When Businesses Use CCTV Systems at Work**

A large number of businesses have taken to monitoring their employees with the use of CCTV systems. Closed-circuit television, also referred to as CCTV, is the means by which television cameras collect data and then transmit this data via a closed-circuit broadcast to any number of monitors which may be located on- or off-site in a surveillance center.

Proponents of these measures state that the very real threat of thefts perpetrated by employees is greatly reduced, while at the same time increasing employee productivity – after all, if an employee feels like she or he is watched at any given moment, she or he will be far less likely to use the work hours to call a girlfriend, read a book, or simply sit around and daydream rather than do the actual work for which she or he is getting paid while on the job.

Casinos are on the forefront of openly discussing the fact that there are monitoring guests as well as employees. Considering that their business consists largely of sums of money changing hands time and again, it is not surprising that the temptation may be too strong for some to resist from dipping into the till.

The same may be said for employees of large movie theatres, who may give free movie tickets and concessions to their friends, while charging everyone else. This kind of shrinkage can be deterred and even prevented completely with the simple use of CCTV technology.

Of course, if your business employs such technology, it is important to note that your employees have certain rights, which you cannot violate, if you want to keep your company out

of the courts. While you cannot guarantee that a disgruntled employee will not take you to court and sue you on the grounds of unreasonable search and seizure under the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution, you will be able to ensure that you minimize such exposure by simply observing a few rules:

Advise your employees of the fact that you use CCTV technology in your business. They have a right to know that their every move may be recorded. Employers should seek to protect themselves by having employees sign waivers that also specify the nature of the surveillance that takes place on a daily basis, and the areas that are exempt from such surveillance. It is important that you and your employees are up front about this issue from the beginning so that there will not be unpleasant surprises.

Limit CCTV surveillance to work areas only, and do not include it in break rooms, bathrooms, or other areas that are away from the normal work environment where employees may be located as they are taking their breaks, eating their lunches, or simply wait for their shifts to begin. Be very clear about where the surveillance is located, and which areas are off limits to surveillance equipment. Employees have the right to privacy while off the clock, and you will violate this right if you move CCTV technology into areas set aside for the enjoyment of your employees.

Consider everything you witness on the surveillance screen about an employee as a private matter. In other words, while you may become privy to an employee's private affairs, such as being served with divorce papers, or such as an employee administering an insulin shot to her- or himself while seated at the desk, this information is considered private and should in no way find its way to the employee's files or become a subject of discussion during a performance review.

After all, your employees are still human beings, even while on the clock, and some aspects of their personal lives will not wait until after working hours, but unless these matters directly interfere with your business, they are not of your business.

Employees have the right of not posing for a company photograph, picture, or simply on-the-job pictures that some companies like to publish every so often. Please keep this in mind and do not use the surveillance footage you have taken to glean suitable photos for your newsletter.

If you are an employee, it is important that you know your rights when it comes to CCTV systems at work, and that you also know your employer's rights. This will ensure that no misunderstandings take place, and that the workplace will still remain a safe and enjoyable place for all to come to.

### **Legalities of Your CCTV: A Basic Overview of the No-No's**

So you are toying with the idea of installing your very own CCTV system in your place of business or in your home, but you are wondering if this idea may come back to harm you. CCTV is nothing more than a set of cameras that are recording the movements of your employees or of those individuals who may be inside your home, and then transmitting these images to a monitor or to the Internet where you can view them.

This form of closed-circuit television surveillance has been around for quite a while, and many businesses use it for a variety of reasons. Some like the idea of making known their surveillance systems exist, so that employees, customers, and clients alike can modify their behavior accordingly; this kind of CCTV usage is usually referred to as deterrence and it may serve to deter theft, violence, robbery, employee negligence or misbehavior, and other incidents. Other times these kinds of surveillance systems are stationed outside a business to both deter crimes, such as vandalism, or record crimes, such as breaking and entering.

Generally speaking, the legalities of your CCTV are your responsibility, but there are some decided no-no's that you must avoid. Here is a brief overview:

In general, you should refrain from placing any CCTV equipment in areas that individuals – employees or customers – would reasonably expect to have some privacy. Usually such places of privacy are bathrooms, toilets, showers, locker rooms, changing rooms, dressing rooms, and also motel and hotel rooms.

In 13 states it is forbidden by law to place CCTV equipment in such locations. These states are Alabama, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, South Dakota, and Utah. While in the other states you may be able to get away with placing a hidden camera or even an overt camera in a private place, in these states you will be breaking the law and it is a definite no-no! The only way to get around this prohibition is by getting each individual's express permission to the taping.

For employees, it is further generally held that certain areas must be off-limits to CCTV surveillance, such as break rooms, lunch rooms, employee lounges, smoking lounges, or other areas on company property where employees may go during off hours to eat their lunches, take their breaks, or wait for their shifts to begin. This is especially stringently prosecuted if such stipulations have been made a part of a collective bargaining agreement in the case of union employees. Secretly spying on employees during their off-the-clock time is a big no-no.

Another no-no that you will need to be aware of pertains to your actual use of the information gleaned from your recordings. What will you do with your knowledge that employee A is getting a divorce, and that employee B is a diabetic? If this personal information somehow leaks to the general population of employees and it can be traced back to you, you may well be accused of creating a hostile work environment.

Additionally, consider that such information will not be admissible for use during performance reviews or when considering someone for a promotion and failure to comply with this regulation may well be considered as discrimination against an employee for reasons of illness, gender, marital status, and so forth. Tread lightly here or you may find yourself on the wrong end of a subpoena!

Even though privacy advocates generally hold that in the states where it is not expressly forbidden to place a hidden camera in a private area without employees' and customers' permission, anything goes, this is far from the truth!

The litigators have found that employers who resort to such "bugging" will have to prove that they installed a hidden camera in such an area specifically not for the reason of seeing an

employee or customer partially or completely unclad. As you may well imagine, it is very hard to prove that you did not intend to do something, so the safest course of action will be to stay away from installing anything hidden in such areas no matter what.

As always when contemplating something that will affect the way you do business: be sure to consult an attorney first!

### **Little Brother's Lurking: How CCTV is Used to "Police" the Public**

When it comes to public safety, there really should be no corners cut. People in today's society like to feel safe when leaving their homes, and rightfully so. With the crime rates escalating and the demand for more policing becoming evident, many people feel that there should be some form of constant monitoring of selected areas around their homes.

While some people feel that video surveillance is not really a practical idea due to the fact that they think the government is constantly watching them, others are looking at it in an entirely different light. While it may be true that a camera will catch people doing something that may be personal, yet not illegal, the premise of the camera and CCTV is to monitor the actions of those who feel the law is not important and will jeopardize the safety of others without concern.

This is where the police come into play, as they are now looking at CCTV to be installed in areas in our society that can be considered problem areas. Many banks today have installed these cameras at their ATM machines, to offer some peace of mind to their customers.

Not only will it allow the community to feel safe when they are at the machines, it gives the bank and the police a very bold physical description of someone who may be using a stolen card. This is a great form of identifying a perpetrator, and can help police find someone that may have committed a very serious crime.

The uses of these CCTV cameras are, for the most part, a very sound idea, and the general public really should not shun them. When you think about it logically, the police are not trying to invade privacy they are trying to offer safety and policing when they are clearly short of manpower. It is not possible for the police department to install an officer in every section of the city that is crime related or a troubled spot.

Not only do they not have enough officers for this, it would also cost the city a large amount of money that they cannot afford to spend. For this reasons the CCTV is a cheaper and more suitable option that does have its merits.

While many view this video surveillance more of a big brother tactic, a little brother tactic is actually a more accurate statement. When the police are using this form of monitoring, the initial hope is that when the public knows the cameras are in place, so too does the criminal. This could either be a major deterrent, or at least will have them and the crime itself on film and the police will likely catch them. This for practical purposes, CCTV should be heralded by the general public, as it allows for some much needed security in areas where there clearly is none.

By installing wireless CCTV cameras along park walkways, or near high crime areas within the core of the city, the police could surely make good use of what they actually see. This will allow the public to feel safe when going to the store, or merely taking a leisurely walk through the park systems. This is anything but a bad idea. This form of monitoring has been in use in government buildings, inside banks, and within hospitals for many years now. It is perhaps the time to embrace the notion that CCTV can indeed be a very useful tool in the crime prevention department.

When CCTV systems are in place, and the general public is aware of it, there is a decrease of crime in that location by as much as 30%. This is a considerable drop in crime when you think about it. By applying more cameras to the city, you can expect those numbers to go up. Another great use for the CCTV by the police is the use of the cameras in busy and often troubling street intersections.

This will help with the control of traffic, if motorists know there is a monitor on that particular location. With the control of a busy street, you will also see a drastic fall in street racing, which often ends up in someone innocent losing his or her life.

### **Nanny Cams: The Pros and Cons of This Type of CCTV**

In times gone by, the term "nanny cam" referred to a small video camera clandestinely installed in an every day household object to secretly monitor the activities of the hired help inside the home. The images that the camera records from its secret position are then stored on a tape, which is located inside a VCR that may be located inside another room.

For all intents and purposes, these nanny cams are little more than CCTV systems. CCTV stands for closed-circuit television, and it is the kind of technology that permits business owners as well as homeowners to monitor their premises for a variety of reasons at any given moment. When it comes to nanny cams, there are a number of pros and cons of this type of CCTV.

#### **On the pro side we have the following aspects:**

Many a time was a suspected child abuser caught in the act and could therefore be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. In a day and age where reference checks are almost non-existent because of the high incident rate of fraud, it is good to know that in-home care providers are put on notice that their actions may be learned, and that consequences for their actions will not be far off.

Parents will be able to rest assured that their children are properly cared for in their absence.

In situations where nannies are made aware of the presence of nanny cams, these small cameras will act as deterrents rather than witnesses to abuse. In other words, the disclosed use of a nanny cam will make it less likely that abuse will occur

**On the con side, there are these arguments to consider:**

If you place a hidden camera in a room where a nanny, in-home care provider, or anyone else who is in your home with your permission may expect some privacy, then any recordings you make may actually come back to harm you!

For example, if you are setting up the camera to monitor your nanny as she gives your children a bath – perhaps because you suspect that she leaves them alone in the bathtub – you must know that the bathroom is one of these areas that is considered off limits when installing a camera, simply because the nanny could reasonably expect some privacy in the bathroom. You might find yourself getting sued for illegal search and seizure under the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

If you install eavesdropping devices in addition to your cameras, you may very well be treading on thin legal ice, since eavesdropping laws have become very strict in recent years.

If you capture child abuse with the help of a hidden nanny cam, the despicable act has already happened, and your child will have fallen victim to the crime.

Of course, with the proper permissions granted and waivers signed, the nanny cam is indeed a tool that will both protect you and also your nanny or household employee. After all, the suspicion of child abuse or theft is easily raised, yet taped evidence can show to the contrary that the bruises your child sports in the evening when you return home are indeed self inflicted, and that your household help may have never entered the room in question, and it is much more likely that you have misplaced the ring or necklace in question. As you can see, the CCTV technology employed inside the home can be beneficial for both parties.

Of course, there are no substitutes for the proper hiring techniques of nannies and other household help:

Whenever possible, use either a word of mouth referral from your dearest friends or contact a reputable agency. The agencies have a lot to loose if they send unqualified individuals to your home, and so you will have the initial peace of mind that the person ringing your doorbell has had at least some background checks completed.

Complete your own background checks or request copies from the referring agencies. Usually a fingerprint, social security number check, and criminal background checks should have been run. Additionally, be sure to run your nanny's name through the Meagan's Law websites that are available on the Internet.

Personally check the references your household help provides. Granted, more often than not you run the risk of speaking with a friend or relative of your nanny, but these discussions may nonetheless provide you with some insight about your nanny's character.

## **The Fake Out: Using Phony CCTV Cameras for Security**

There are a lot of benefits of having a home security system in place. If you've been thinking about having one installed, and are hesitant about the cost, you can have a fake camera installed, but seriously consider the issue. Your main priority is to provide a safe and secure environment for you, and anyone that comes to your house to visit. Before you run out and buy an expensive and cheap camera for inside or outside your home, consider the intelligence of an intruder. Read on to learn about how an intruder might view your home and a few back up plans that you can have in place to fool them.

Security in today's society is important, and ignoring the situation could leave you in a very vulnerable position someday. If you've found that the cost of a real security camera is just too much, then you can put a few fake cameras to fool, but before you buy check out the quality of construction, and the overall look of the camera. Believe it or not, people that want to break in know what cheap shoddy cameras are all about.

If it's a professional thief wanting to burglarize your home, they've studied the type of security cameras available on the market. Remember too, that they've run across a few in their crime of the past, so they're on the lookout for fake ones. Other types of criminals such as the crash and dash type will either be scared off by any camera, or won't notice the camera at all, so the protection it might offer is questionable.

Trying to fake out a criminal has other problems too. For instance, if you live in a neighborhood that doesn't have any other type of camera, an intruder will question if your security camera is real. They pick up on clues too that a neighborhood might not be serious about security, if bushes aren't trimmed or trees overhang windows. A criminal that wants to break into your house will look at the position of your cameras to see if it makes sense to have a camera there.

Professional thieves will look for areas that are well lit especially around crooks and crannies, of walled garden areas, or driveways that are attached to the house. They know that a weak secured door will lead to the main area of the house. Make sure that your doors are secure, growth is trimmed, and lighting is sensible.

Don't forget either that most will case an area for some time before they attempt to intrude into your home. It could be that they'll even show up to your home, disguised as a sales person or some type, to see how you react upon answering a door, and to check out if there're any dogs in your home. There're so many other things they look for too, if they get inside on a sales call, such as motion sensor lighting devices, and switch panels for a home security.

It's true that a well-positioned security panel can be hidden, but please remember you could be dealing with a real pro. Professional intruders know where most installation companies place security alarm panels, so take caution. After their inside they can make their move at that point too.

Take caution too that any type of fake security camera needs to be running all the time, and if it's not, then an intruder knows, so it's vital to have it running at all times, even during bad weather. That's part of the problem with fake cameras, they're usually cheaper, and don't run if weather is bad. Quality cameras that are weatherproof do, and it's a wise investment to make

sure that you get one that does run at maximum capacity. You can install nanny type security cameras inside.

These are small cameras inside objects throughout your house, such as inside picture frames, or a favorite stuffed animal in a child's bedroom. Be warned though these can be knocked over if not securely attached at a base of some kind. The last thing you'll want is to not have the evidence if they get inside your home, and your fake cameras outside won't have any evidence either.

Finally, in the end you'll be the one to decide if a fake camera is enough security for your home and family. Take careful stock on the usefulness of a camera that isn't real. It might be just what you need, but look at the real benefits and decide carefully. There might not be a second chance at the intruder's game.

### **The Great Debate in Utilizing CCTV to Monitor Traffic Safety**

Have you ever driven your car in busy rush hour traffic only to witness the kind of behavior that has you turning to your passenger exclaiming, "did you see that?" You may have witnessed the Audi driver who just cut off another car with the breath of a hair to spare - while he was reading the sports page of the local newspaper and operating the car at the same time.

You may have noticed the lady in her Toyota removing unwanted facial hair with her tweezers while driving - instead of paying attention to the intersection she is approaching - missing the pedestrian who was about to step into traffic just barely. You may have seen the pickup truck going around a corner so close to the curb that pedestrians at a traffic light actually have to jump back to avoid being hit.

You may have noticed the nonchalant manner in which the cab runs a traffic light and leaves a couple of cars almost crashing into each other in his wake - blissfully oblivious of the chaos that is behind him. Of course, do you not wish someone were there watching when the rent-a-wreck behind you suddenly slams into you, only to then drive around you and continue on her merry way, not even stopping to see if you and your children are okay, much less remaining behind to exchange insurance information?

If these scenarios are all too familiar to you, then you are probably more than willing to engage in the great debate in utilizing CCTV to monitor traffic safety. Closed-circuit television, also known as CCTV, refers to the technology that permits third parties to see what is going on at intersections, on the road, and on highways via the use of television cameras which send back images of current events to monitors that are usually located inside a surveillance station.

As a matter of fact, CCTV technology is already in place in many major cities to keep an eye on known hotspots within the highway grid. The advantages of this system are plentiful:

If an accident occurs on the highway, the authorities will be summoned quickly as information can be shared immediately.

As the accident is sorted out in the aftermath, the surveillance tapes may be used in court to ascertain fault and negligence

To prevent bottlenecks from occurring, and to help other drivers to be aware early on for the need of taking alternate routes, many times the data is used to update the electronic message signs that are now so frequent on major thoroughfares in this country which will inform drivers of accidents up ahead, the waiting time involved, and also alternative routes that are available to circumnavigate the scene of the accident.

Traffic reporters will have access to the information to further inform drivers who may not yet have left home, or who may be listening in on the radio to find out what is going on ahead.

While this kind of travel information is useful for successful travel management and traveler information, the collectors of the data are quick to point out that the individuals' privacy is still protected and in no way compromised. In other words, these cameras will not be used to spy on individuals who may be traveling along the major highways. For those who are hoping to rid the roads of newspaper reading or make up applying drivers, this is a bit of a disappointment – after all, until these individuals are caught in an accident, their activities are private and will not be disturbed.

In cases where modes of public transportation are involved, these CCTV systems are instrumental in ascertaining the needs of passengers, and by properly directing emergency personnel, relief buses and trains, and also by advising other passengers of delays.

Of course, even though there are a lot of benefits to such CCTV technology, there is still a lot of discussion about their uses. Something just rubs people the wrong way when it comes to being under surveillance. It is easy to understand how easily and quickly this system could be misused, and while not being deterred from continuing the use of CCTV, the traffic safety commissions have made a number of concessions that are thought to appease critics of the system:

Surveillance is announced with signs that are posted well ahead of the site where cameras are located. Furthermore, such signs are posted periodically throughout the area where cameras are installed.

Cameras are highly visible and in no way obscured.

Rules, regulations, and procedures are put in place to ensure that the cameras are used only for their intended purposes.

### **Uses of Wireless CCTV in the Childcare Arena**

If you are a working parent, you probably have a desk littered with photos of your precious child, perhaps a mouse pad with his or her photo on it, and a wall calendar with her or his likeness. Quite often during the day you may wonder how your child is doing, if she is missing

you, if he is having his lunch and drinking and his milk, and overall you will want to ensure that she or he is safe and well cared for in your absence.

While experts time and again advise parents to make unscheduled visits to the daycare centers that look after their children during the workday, this is quite often an impossible proposition to a parent who has to keep a job in order to put food on the table.

Additionally, keeping in mind that many daycare providers are operating out of their own homes, there is always the awkward feeling of invading somebody's residence when a parent shows up unannounced and unexpected. Granted, if you are taking your children to a home daycare provider you know that you have every right to drop by unannounced at any given time, but you probably will not be able to help the way you feel.

A new innovation that is sweeping the childcare centers in the United Kingdom is the installation and usage of wireless CCTV in the childcare arena. Closed-circuit television, or CCTV, refers to the childcare center's use of television cameras, which are set up in strategic places around the rooms where the children are during the day. The images these cameras pick up go to a set of monitors, which are oftentimes connected directly to a computer.

Other times, it is webcams that are hooked up to the Internet directly or to a video server which will display the images captured on a website. Parents may access the website that displays the webcam images via a secured site that requires password access, and so they will be able to check in on their children at any time during the day. Parents love this technology, and daycare centers that use CCTV often have long waiting lists because parents like the idea of being able to drop in electronically at any given moment.

Yet what about the daycare providers - do they applaud the use of CCTV technology in their centers of operation? As a matter of fact, they do! You will be surprised to find out their reasons:

In a day and age where the awareness of predators that target children grows, and where every day brings more news stories of teachers who are found out to be perverts, it becomes increasingly difficult to ensure that children are indeed safe. Children or parents may misunderstand interactions at centers.

This could lead to accusations and allegations of child abuse, neglect, or molestation when in fact none existed. CCTV technology in the childcare arena will provide the backup a childcare operator will need to take an unbiased look at an allegation and see if there was indeed an improper situation that took place, or if instead the parent may have walked in on a game that was completely innocent - which can be proven by showing the tape leading up to and including the moment the parent walked in on a questionable incident.

For example, a child who is being toilet trained will require adult assistance in wiping. While this is intellectually understood by parents and caregiver alike, a parent may take exception to the help offered by a childcare provider when it is offered to the child, simply because it appears to be an awkward position to find the child and adult in. It may be completely innocent and indeed within the scope of the childcare activities that this help is given, but a

parent who is a bit too quick on the trigger may not see it this way. CCTV will exonerate the childcare provider and help the parent to gain a bit of a reality check.

Bumps and bruises are evidences that learning experiences are taking place in childhood. Yet if you have parents who question the bruises a child has received while in your care it is hard to answer thusly. For this reason CCTV technology will ensure that parents will be able to see with their own eyes that no suspicious activity happened, but instead that their child may have just bumped his arm while playing with another child or while running – against instructions – while playing on the deck.

### **Using CCTV in the Construction Industry: How It Keeps the Site Safe**

When deciding to start a construction site, there are many issues on your mind. One of the main issues that you may be looking at is the security of the site. You will also find that using CCTV for your construction site will also help keep you updated on the progress, even if you are not able to make it to the site yourself in person.

This allows you to hold meetings at the office and still be able to monitor the progress from the meeting room, without the inconvenience and dirt of visiting the actual construction site. Using CCTV over an actual security guard can actually save you money as well.

Besides being able to monitor the construction site from off site and the ease that it offers for those holding meetings in the office, there is also the monitoring of quality control from off site as well. There have actually been times where whole buildings had to be demolished in order to fix something that was done to the foundation of the building that was done wrong. This costs a lot of unnecessary money and time and can be avoided if you decide to use CCTV for your construction site.

There are, of course, many safety options that can be gained by the use of a CCTV system on the construction site. A CCTV can a save a lot of money instead of security guards. Security guards can cost money in terms of salary, benefits and uniforms. While a CCTV system can be installed and pay for itself in a few months at the most. These systems are more convenient and accurate at identifying suspects than people are.

Another great thing about using CCTV at a construction company is that it can also allow for the user to be everywhere at once in a sense. This is because the cameras can be placed at different locations and simultaneously be recording at all these locations. Where as if you have a security guard, they cannot be everywhere at once. This can be fixed with multiple security guards, but that costs more money than is necessary if you are using a CCTV for your construction site instead.

Something else that should be considered as far as CCTV cameras being used at construction sites is the fact that the cameras are better and more accurately able to identify those they catch on the cameras. A human who sees something will most likely not be as accurate as a camera. This is because a camera cannot lie and the resolution on newer CCTV cameras has become more and more accurate lately and a lot clearer.

You should also consider a wireless CCTV system for your use; this is because most construction sites are only temporary. Wireless CCTV systems are portable and easier to install. This means that once you are done with a construction site you will have an easier time uninstalling the system and then use it again at the next construction site. This convenience works very well with construction sites. Because of the temporary aspect of these wireless CCTV systems it makes it a lot more convenient and makes a lot more sense to use these systems at your construction site.

As you can see the many uses that can be availed from using CCTV for your construction site makes it a wonderful idea. Not only can it make it more convenient to monitor what is going on at your site when you are unable to get there, but there is a lot more and better safety at your fingertips when you use a CCTV system. The reliability of a CCTV system is better than a human security guard, not to mention the price.

The accuracy is almost a hundred times better with a good CCTV system and your system pays for itself within a few months. It just makes more sense to use a CCTV system than to use other means for security, not only is it cost effective, but it also is a lot more convenient than using security guards. So, why not install a CCTV system at your construction site? You'll be glad you did.

### **Why Employing CCTV on the Highways Makes Sense**

When it comes to traffic jams and weather conditions that can cause delays, wouldn't it be nice if you could know ahead of time and be directed to a better route? Of course it would and with the advancement of CCTV technology, using these systems on the highway can make a lot of sense and save a lot of time. This type of technology has been used since 1997 and has helped greatly where it has been employed since then. So why not use it more often and save more lives and more time? It just makes sense.

The very first time this type of CCTV technology was used in the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta. This was a great place to test out this new type of technology. With all the traffic congestion that was encountered in such a big area, a lot of people saw the many benefits of using CCTV for highway use. It was then further developed and is now able to be used to warn people of traffic jams and weather conditions that may impede traffic as well.

The way most of these CCTV systems work on the highway starts with a digital CCTV camera. These cameras are actually quite smart and can relay information to dispatchers who use signs that are posted along the highway. These signs then warn drivers of upcoming traffic jams or weather conditions, such as a wet road. More than that, technology is being developed to warn individual drivers through computers that are built into cars.

Even right now though, you can link up to a website before you take off and find out ahead of time what real time conditions are. This convenience can greatly improve your trip and save you time and money. This will then eventually improve traffic flow and let traffic jams clear faster than they normally would. Some very sophisticated types of CCTV cameras are also able to reprogram different traffic signals and such to help with the flow of traffic.

Another great thing and what makes a lot of sense in using CCTV on the highway has to do with traffic accidents. Traffic accidents occur and it may take a little time for an emergency crew to get there. But with the installation and use of the new CCTV systems, these emergency workers, via Internet hookups to the system, can find accidents much faster. This use for CCTV on the highway makes a whole lot of sense and can even save lives in the long run.

Not only can CCTV systems on the highway help the public, but they can also help those who plan out the building of new streets and highways. Monitoring via these CCTV systems can do this. It can monitor traffic patterns and such that occur on a daily basis. Then these patterns can later be analyzed. By being analyzed the patterns can be fixed and tweaked by building new roads that may help with the congestion in certain areas. Or, by putting in new traffic signals where there weren't any before.

Or a carpool lane can be added for cars with two or more people, allowing for better flow on the main highway. This is because carpool lanes can ease up on the number of cars in the main traffic lanes. Or even just another lane of traffic can be added, all this can be deduced from analyzing different traffic patterns by watching and observing through CCTV systems on the highway.

As you can see, there are many reasons why having and using CCTV on the highway just makes sense. Those who are planning highway projects can save money. Time can be saved by the public, by avoiding any congestion or backups caused by accidents or traffic jams. Lives can be saved by allowing for faster and more accurate access to traffic accident victims. Those who are planning new highways and roads can be better able to predict where this building needs to take place or if it's as simple as just adding another lane of traffic. Adding CCTV to highway systems to help better prepare for traffic flow and construction just makes sense and can do so much.

### **Clandestine Uses for the CCTV Wireless**

With the many developments in wireless CCTV there has been a lot of progress that has made this type of system better suited for certain things. Many people have heard of the small CCTV cameras that can be placed inside almost anything and hidden almost anywhere. A lot of people have heard of these being used as nanny cams to keep an eye out on babysitters who are watching their children. Wireless CCTV has been so advanced to the point that these cameras are now more compact and easily moved and used almost anywhere. There are many uses that can be had from these types of systems.

One of the most common uses for a wireless CCTV system is the aforementioned nanny cam. Many people have seen many television specials on just this type of clandestine use of the wireless CCTV system. This type of system works very well for this use. This is because it can be hidden inside a book shelf or positioned anywhere in the room to better catch what is going on without the person it is taping knowing that it is there.

This will help the person watching catch the babysitter acting as they normally would, without being aware that they are being taped. Without the cumbersome wires hanging around, it is

also a lot easier to hide. This can give the concerned parent a better idea of what is really going on when they are not home.

Of course, a lot of local law enforcement agencies have begun to look into wireless CCTV systems as well. This is because these systems can be invaluable when on covert operations or on a stakeout type of situation. This can help police better monitor what is going on in the situation without the suspect being aware of it. For example, in an undercover operation such as a drug bust or prostitution ring, a wireless CCTV can be placed without the suspect knowing about it.

This is also due to the fact that it is wireless and smaller and can be hidden almost anywhere. This benefit is an extremely good one because the evidence can be used later on as well in a courtroom. The resolution quality of most of the newer CCTV systems can be more accurate in clearly identifying the suspect later on and proving that they were involved in the incident. Having video evidence can be way better proof than most other evidence provided.

In addition, wireless CCTV can also be used clandestinely by private investigators as well. Private investigators will greatly like the fact that they can videotape someone clandestinely in their investigation of them. The convenience and easy installation available with a wireless system means that they can be installed and used more accurately than say a regular still camera or other video taping device.

Because of the advances in this technology alone the quality is also a lot better than in just taking a picture with a regular camera. Actual movement can be recorded and the quality makes the person more easily identifiable.

There also have been some instances in illegally dumping things in locations that are not allowed or zoned for that. If that is suspected a wireless CCTV can be set up in the location that is suspected and the culprits can be caught. This can only be accomplished with a wireless system.

A wireless system can be set up in almost any location, even outdoors, and can be done covertly so that the people who are suspected will not be aware of it until they are being arrested after the fact. Because the resolution is so good and with the advances in infrared technology, the suspect can be accurately identified and still be caught covertly with the use of wireless CCTV.

As you can see, wireless CCTV has many great uses for clandestine purposes and is more convenient for these purposes than more common video recording devices. Not only can wireless CCTV be used for more common purposes but it can also be used to reduce a lot of things going on under the radar without the suspects being aware of it. The advancements of wireless CCTV has made it possible to catch anyone doing almost anything, especially if it is something they aren't supposed to be doing.

## **Five Finger Discounts on a Decline Thanks to CCTV Wireless**

People will shoplift for a variety of reasons. Sometimes it's because they need something and don't have any money. At other times it is due to the fact that they simply just want something that they can't have. With the installation of wireless CCTV systems, it has become less and less of a problem lately. This is due to the deterrence factor that comes with having these systems around. It is even been shown that just the mention of the fact that these systems are being used can deter someone from even trying to shoplift or use the five-finger discount system at a store.

There are definitely some advantages to being able to have CCTV systems installed in a store as an anti-theft device. This can include the deterrence factor primarily. This is because those who would steal usually will stop if they see or hear that there are CCTV systems installed. They know that the technology involved can easily and more accurately identify them and the risk now outweighs the benefit that they may get from the crime. This has been shown to be one of the best anti-theft deterrents so far in this area.

Another thing to consider are blind spots in the store. Sometimes the floor plans that are used in a certain store aren't always the best. This means that the cashier or sales person can't always see every inch of the store and thieves will use this to their advantage. Instead, when there are CCTV systems installed, cameras can be set up in these blind spots, offering the cashier or sales person better capabilities in catching these thieves. The shoplifter will lose the advantage of these blind spots, thanks to the CCTV cameras in use. This has definitely help lend to a decrease in shoplifting when CCTV systems are used.

If, perhaps, someone does get away with shoplifting despite all this, there are better chances that they can later on be caught, because of the great resolution offered through most newer systems. This means they are better and more clearly able to identify the person who committed the theft. This can better bring the right person to justice and perhaps even be able to recover the lost goods from the store, saving the store the loss they may have incurred.

Another thing that has to be worried about in many environments is the fact that even employees may be tempted to steal from their place of business. First of all, most employees being aware that a CCTV system is being used will be less tempted to steal then if they didn't know or there wasn't one in use. Once again the determent factor comes into play in this type of situation.

Another interesting thing is that the back room or any stock rooms that are set up can be more easily monitored in with a CCTV system set up. Because employees are not out front and stealing from the back room or stock room, they may think that it would be easier to do this if there are no CCTVs being used. But as you can see if there are CCTVs monitoring even those areas, theft can be avoided most of the time, if not all together.

One other thing that is a great advantage to using wireless CCTV is that the images can be monitored from anywhere at any time. As long as you have an Internet connection, you can link up to the cameras installed at your store and see what is going on at all times. This means that if you can't be there yourself you can see what is going on anyways. This can offer many advantages and a lot of convenience as well.

Take all together these factors are great and can definitely help lower the amounts of thefts that occur. Wireless CCTV can be a great deterrent to those who are tempted to shoplift or take from the company and are more than worth what they may cost to install or buy. In the end they cannot only help decline the theft factor, but they can also save you a lot of money too. With all these benefits it makes a lot of sense to install a CCTV and even a wireless one to help save you money from unwanted theft.

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