

## My Mobile Watchdog



Reported by: Amy Frazier  
Email: afrazier@koin.com  
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GRESHAM, Ore. – Tammy Kerr is like most teenagers these days, glued to her cell phone and furiously moving her thumbs over a miniscule keypad to send and receive text messages from friends.

How much texting does she do a day?

“Two-hundred or 300,” said the 16-year-old. “I text all the time. Even during meals when I’m not supposed to, but...”

Bill Kerr, Tammy’s grandfather who is raising her, has problems with even basic technology, joking that he has issues turning on the radio by himself.

Technologically-troubled Bill wanted an easy way make sure Tammy was safe from possible predators lurking just a click or text away.

My Mobile Watchdog is an application for a child’s phone and monitors everything from calls to photographs to text messages. It was originally only available to law enforcement on an as-needed basis, but once it became apparent society could benefit from such technology, it was released to the general public.

“It allows parents a tremendous amount of ability to be aware of what’s going on and who, really it’s who is in their kids’ life,” said Bill Lotter, CEO of My Mobile Watchdog.

My Mobile Watchdog has various features to help guardians monitor their children’s cell phones. Parents/guardians can add, edit and update email and text addresses to the monitoring list, set up a contact list with authorized contacts, receive immediate alerts of unauthorized activities, and monitor all photo/video messages sent and received.

“I thought it was a total invasion of privacy because I didn’t want my grandparents knowing every little thing about me,” Tammy said.

But one incident changed Tammy’s tune.

“A young gentleman texted her a message with some very profane conduct probably just shy of pornographic in nature and she responded that she didn’t appreciate that, but I responded to him as well,” Bill said.

Sexual harassment via mobile phone, known as sexting, is a growing problem.

“I do understand where they’re coming from,” Tammy said.