

I am a seventeen year old girl who is a victim of breach of privacy. When this happened to me, I hadn't even been fifteen for an entire month. It sounds weird even saying that almost 3 years have passed since that day. On May 31, 2019, I was at Target, trying on swimsuits with one of my friends. We went into the dressing rooms and each went into different rooms. I had heard a man's voice and heard him ask the Target worker if the dressing rooms were for everyone and she said "yes", which I thought was weird, but didn't think much more of it. I began to try on a swimsuit top by taking off my shirt and bra, but leaving my shorts on. As I started to put the top on, I noticed a phone camera over the top of the dressing room door. At this moment, I didn't have the top all the way on, so there was definitely some nudity. I immediately went to the door and opened it to yell at whomever was on the other side. It was such a traumatic event that I can't 100% remember what I said, but I do know it was something along the lines of "you need to get the hell out of here"! When I opened the door, I was able to get a good enough look at him to remember what he was wearing. When I yelled, he put down the pants that were in his arms, and ran away instantly. I yelled for my friend in the other room and I told her I needed help. The Target lady came back and was no help whatsoever. As a young girl, it was a disappointment when she didn't seem to believe me.

As an individual, my life has not been the same since that day. There isn't a single day where I don't think about what happened to me. I mean, it's life changing. It definitely opened up my eyes as a young lady, and has made me pay really close attention to my surroundings. Unfortunately, I just threw away the t shirt and nike shorts that I was wearing that evening because I never wanted to wear them again. For several days/weeks after this happened, I couldn't even look at my body. I hated it. I was afraid to shower and did so with clothes on. I was afraid to be alone or with people that I didn't fully know or trust. There are still triggers that I deal with to this day, I just try to avoid them as much as possible. I really try to avoid trying on clothes in any store because I am so nervous of it happening again. I was in a different Target just a few days ago and needed to try something on for an upcoming event, but couldn't bring myself to do it and decided to just take my chances that what I needed was going to fit. I have not tried on a swimming suit in any dressing room or store since that day. It's such a crazy situation that no one really thinks about, but now that it has happened to me, I realize no person should ever go through this. When you first hear about the situation, it doesn't sound as bad because there was no contact involved, but it's still a very traumatizing event. I fell like a piece of me has been taken away, and no girl should feel like that.

I believe that it is very important to make changes to the laws and punishments for certain breach of privacy cases in Kansas. The current laws are outdated and are not current with the technology and accessibility individuals have to cameras and video recording. Unfortunately, individuals who commit certain invasion of privacy crimes tend to commit those crimes more than once. In my situation, the perpetrator had been given probation for doing the same thing to another teenage girl, and turned around and did it to me just 24 hours after receiving his sentence. If these types of crimes are treated as serious as they are, hopefully, criminals will be less likely to be so quick to commit them.