



OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE  
KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



**Date:** June 13, 2013

**Complaint Number:** 13-112150

**Type of Incident:** Surveilling an Unclothed Person/Eavesdropping

**Supervisor Approval:** Lt. Ron Gates

**Location:** Ada Dance Studio, 473 Pettis S.E.,  
Ada Township

**Assigned Detective:** Det. Jason Kelley

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On March 19, 2013, the Ada Dance Studio located a smartphone hidden in the ceiling of the girl's changing room and immediately reported the incident to the Kent County Sheriff Department. The phone was placed in the ceiling from an adjacent utility room that could not be accessed from Ada Dance Studio. Detectives examined the smartphone and found a recording of the girl's changing room, but no images of nude girls were captured.

Detectives identified the last owner of the phone as Richard Donald Schmeling, 28, of Grand Rapids.

A fingerprint found at the scene was compared to Schmeling's fingerprints with a positive match. Schmeling is not associated with the Ada Dance Studio or any of the other businesses in the same building.

The Kent County Prosecutor's Office reviewed the case and authorized the following charges on Schmeling:

- Surveilling (or attempt to surveil) an Unclothed Person
- Capture/Distribute Image (or attempt) of an Unclothed Person
- Eavesdropping – Installing/Using a Device
- Three counts of Computers – Using to Commit a Crime

On June 12, 2013, Schmeling was arraigned in the 63<sup>rd</sup> District Court and given a \$6,000 10% bond.

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