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Is there privacy on the internet?

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CHARLOTTE, NC (WBTV) - A Thomasboro elementary school teacher is fighting for her job over negative comments she posted on the social website Facebook. The teacher claims she made the comments on her private page. So is the law on her side and does she have a case?

Meredith Jeffries has been a lawyer for more than 14 years. She now teaches at the Charlotte School of Law. Her specialty is Labor and Employment Law. She believes even though the teacher posted comments like she teaches chitlins and her school is in the ghetto on her private site...the teacher is still responsible for what happened. A Facebook subscriber can allow people to log into their private page.

"Someone has been able to read these comments that people are finding objectionable and that's a problem." said Lawyer Meredith Jeffries

Jeffries also says a public school teacher almost has no rights to privacy when it comes to certain things.

"If you are writing things that reflect your school or your children you lose expectancy of privacy when you post it on the internet." said Jeffries

This lawyer does admit posting on Facebook and other social networks is new and could be argued in court.

"The laws are behind with where we are with technology." said Jeffries

The bottomline is despite the fact you post on a private page if someone else can get access to it then your privacy becomes public. So in this lawyer's eyes...does the teacher in question have a case.

"Probably not" said Jeffries

The elementary school teacher does have a lawyer and the lawyer is waiting for CMS' investigation to be complete before making a move. The Thomasboro elementary teacher is not the only teacher caught writing negative comments on Facebook...other elementary teachers at Barringer, Allenbrook, and Dilworth have also had their pages reviewed by CMS and they have been disciplined.

The Thomasboro teacher is still suspended with pay as her lawyer reviews the privacy laws.



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