

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

1. <b>KRISTAL TRENKAMP, individually</b> ) <b>and as parent and next of kin of S.W.,</b> ) <b>a minor child,</b> )  <b>Plaintiff,</b> )  v. )  1. <b>EDMOND PUBLIC SCHOOLS,</b> ) 2. <b>VERONICA JOHNSON,</b> )  <b>and</b> )  3. <b>CITY OF EDMOND</b> )  <b>Defendants.</b> )	<b>Case No. CIV-23-269-SLP</b>  <b>Judge Scott L. Palk</b>
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**AMENDED COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, Kristal Trenkamp, individually and as parent and next of kin of S.W., a minor child, and pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(1)(B), in support of its Amended Complaint against Defendants, Edmond Public Schools, Veronica Johnson, and the City of Edmond, states and avers as follows:

**NATURE OF COMPLAINT**

1. This is an action for monetary damages associated with, inter alia, the unreasonable and inappropriate strip search of a minor student by a school authority and an Edmond Police School Resource Officer.

**PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff, Kristal Trenkamp (hereinafter the "Plaintiff"), is an individual residing in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.

2. Plaintiff, S.W., is a minor child residing in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma and is the daughter of Kristal Trenkamp.

3. Defendant, Edmond Public Schools (hereinafter the “District”), is an educational institution of the State of Oklahoma located in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.

4. Defendant, Veronica Johnson (hereinafter “Johnson”), is an individual employed as Principal of Heartland Middle School which is under the control and supervision of Edmond Public Schools.

5. Defendant, The City of Edmond (the “City”) (collectively with the District and Johnson, the “Defendants”), is an Oklahoma municipal corporation located in Oklahoma County, state of Oklahoma.

### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

6. S.W. is a minor child, formerly enrolled at Heartland Middle School, under the supervision and control of the Edmond Public Schools school district on the date of the incident, May 10, 2022.

7. On or about May 10, 2022, S.W. was called into the office of the Principal of Heartland Middle School, Defendant Johnson, based on her alleged suspicion of being in possession of a nicotine vape device.

8. Present in Johnson’s office was also Officer Brooks, a member of the Edmond Police Department, and the school resource officer stationed at Heartland Middle School (hereinafter “Brooks”).

9. Upon being informed that another student accused S.W. of being in possession of a nicotine vape device, Johnson and Brooks proceeded to conduct a search of S.W.’s person, including improperly and unreasonably subjecting her to a strip search in search of such a device.

10. The search was conducted by Johnson, the principal of Heartland Middle School, and an employee of the District. Johnson was the highest-ranking authority for the District located at Heartland Middle School.

11. Also present and assisting with the unreasonable strip search was Brooks, the school resource officer stationed at Heartland Middle School, who also recorded the entire search via her body camera.

12. The search was also conducted in front of another minor student.

13. Johnson initiated the search by utilizing a metal detection wand on both S.W.'s person as well as her bag, prior to conducting a physical search of both S.W.'s bag and her person. Upon locating no contraband, Johnson proceeded to initiate an illegal strip search of S.W.

14. During the search, S.W. Johnson instructed S.W. to lift her shirt, exposing her bare abdomen and a portion of her underwear, and spin while doing so.

15. Following the exposure of S.W.'s bare abdomen and action of spinning, Johnson then inquired about what undergarments S.W. was wearing under her pants.

16. Subsequently, Johnson inquired about S.W.'s bra, and proceeded to instruct her to lift her shirt high enough so that Johnson was able to inspect S.W.'s bra and the underwire therein.

17. The search took place in a room with two uncovered windows that allow a clear view to general access areas of the school, including other students, faculty and staff and neither Johnson or Brooks lowered the shades or otherwise attempted to obstruct the view of S.W.'s strip search.

18. No contraband was found during the search, nor was any evidence that S.W. was ever in possession of contraband provided to S.W.

**FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**(Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress)**

19. Plaintiff incorporates herein each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of this Petition as if fully set forth herein, further states as follows:

20. The acts of each Defendant described herein were wrongful, extreme, and outrageous, transcending the bounds of all human decency.

21. That despite having been informed by S.W. she was not in possession of a nicotine vape, the Defendant proceeded to request her to partially remove or lift her clothing exposing her bare skin with the intention or recklessness to cause severe emotional distress upon the Plaintiff beyond that which a reasonable person could be expected to endure.

22. As a result of these wrongful acts, Plaintiff has suffered extreme emotional distress and hardship.

**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**(Negligence)**

23. Plaintiff incorporates herein each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of this Petition as if fully set forth herein, further states as follows:

24. The Defendants owed a duty of care to the victim, S.W.

25. The duty of care owed to the victim was breached during the illegal strip search.

26. This breach of duty caused injury to the victim and resulted in costs for the victim including medical expenses, moving costs, lost wages, and pain and suffering.

27. That Defendants either knew or should have known the request for S.W. to lift her shirt and expose her undergarments in the presence of another student and in front of windows with views allowing access to the inside of the school was improper and negligent on the part of the Defendants.

28. That the Defendants did not exercise the care which a reasonably careful person would use under the circumstances to determine whether a search should be conducted.

**THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION  
(Negligence Per Se)**

29. Plaintiff incorporates herein each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of this Petition as if fully set forth herein, further states as follows:

30. Edmond Public School Policy #4820 provides, “The extent of any search conducted pursuant to this section shall be reasonably related to the objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction. ***In no event shall a strip search of a student be allowed.*** No student’s clothing, except cold weather outerwear, shall be removed prior to or during the conduct of any warrantless search.” (Edmond Public School Policy #4810 ¶ 2).

31. OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 24-102 provides, “The extent of any search conducted pursuant to this section shall be reasonably related to the objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction. ***In no event shall a strip search of a student be allowed.*** No student's clothing, except cold weather outerwear, shall be removed prior to or during the conduct of any warrantless search.” (Okla. Stat. 70 § 24-102 ¶ 2)

32. Johnson and Brooks conducted a strip search of S.W., in clear violation of Edmond School Policy #4820 and OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 24-102.

33. That a shirt does not constitute “cold weather outerwear”, and the request to have S.W. raise her shirt, exposing her undergarments is not reasonably related to the objective of the search.

34. Exposure of S.W.'s bare abdomen and undergarments constitutes a strip search and is excessively intrusive in light of the fact that S.W. was a fourteen (14) year old female.

35. There was no warrant for the search.

36. The Defendants are liable for damages associated with the clear and unequivocal violations of Edmond School Policy #4820 and OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 24-102.

**FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
(Assault)**

45. Plaintiff incorporates herein each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of this Petition as if fully set forth herein, further states as follows:

46. At the time S.W. entered the office and was asked to lift her shirt and spin, S.W. had a reasonable belief that the Defendant's actions were an imminent threat of harm or danger.

47. Johnson's demand that S.W. raise her shirt in order to show her underwear, was an intentional act that directly resulted in injury to S.W.

48. At the time S.W. was asked to lift her shirt and spin, she was immediately apprehensive as she was aware that her naked midsection and undergarments would be on display in front of Brooks, Johnson, another student, and in front of multiple uncovered windows allowing the office and anyone in the hallway to view her.

49. S.W., as a proximate cause of the intentional actions of Johnson, suffered extreme emotional distress and hardship due to the actions of the Defendant.

**FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
(Invasion of Privacy/Intrusion of Seclusion)**

50. Plaintiff incorporates herein each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs of this Petition as if fully set forth herein, further states as follows:

51. By conducting an illegal, unwarranted and unreasonable strip search upon the person of S.W., Johnson and Brooks, by and through their positions with the District and the

City, respectively, intentionally intruded, physically upon the solitude and invaded the privacy of S.W.

52. By forcing S.W. to show her underwear and bare abdomen to both Johnson and Brooks, in full view of open windows, other students and the body camera of Brooks, Defendants' intrusion of S.W.'s person and invasion of her privacy would be highly offensive to any reasonable person.

53. As a proximate and direct cause of Defendants' invasion of S.W.'s privacy, S.W. has suffered severe emotional distress and hardship.

### **JURY DEMAND**

54. Plaintiff demands trial by jury on all issues so triable herein.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Kristal Trenkamp, individually and as parent and next of kin of S.W., prays for judgment against Defendants ordering them to pay damages in an amount to be determined by the trier of fact, which damages shall include, without limitation, actual and exemplary damages associated with Plaintiffs causes of action, as well as any such other relief which this Court deems just and equitable.

Respectfully submitted,

*s/ Shelby Shelton*

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 17, 2023, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk of the Court using the Electronic Case Filing system for filing. Based on the records currently on file in this case, the Clerk of Court will transmit a Notice of Electronic Filing to those registered participants of the ECF System.

*s/ Shelby Shelton*

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