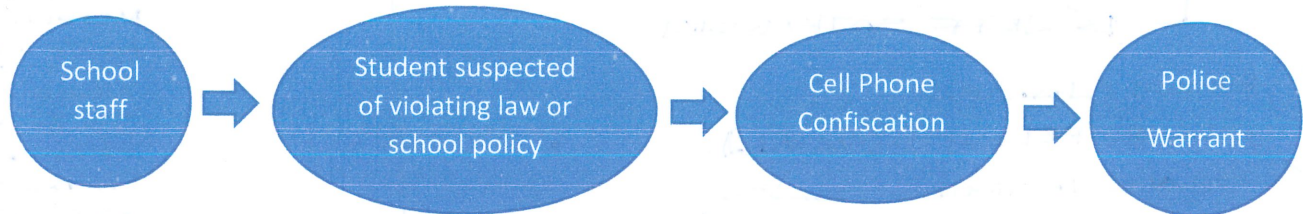


## Your Cell Phone, tablet, and the law

The Michigan Supreme Court recently held that not only is a warrant required to search the contents of a cell phone but the police are only authorized to look for items on the phone that directly pertain to the subject of the investigation. *People v. Hughes*, 506 Mich. 512, 958 N.W.2d 98 (2020).



With the evolution of computing devices *to include cell phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and even some video-gaming systems, the district's policy extends to the use of any of these devices while on school property.* Though a student's cell phone is private property, misuse of that device at school can result in confiscation of the phone. That cell phone then is subject to investigation which may be a lengthy process and conclude with the inability to return the cell phone or electronic device to the owner due to the metadata that is stored regardless of the owner or the cost.

Regardless of whether prosecution is pursued by another party, the data on the cell phone or electronic device is a violation of law at face value and is considered contraband and the electronic device will be forfeited.

Keeping students safe while they are becoming educated is an overriding priority of Imlay City Public Schools so the district and The Imlay City Police Department wants to be proactive in helping educate parents about cell phone misuse use not only while students are supervised in school but also when they go home, or other non-school location.

There are many resources available to parents that provide information, good advice, and guidance for dealing with student exploration of the Internet and other communication vehicles. Millions of students go on-line every day, and most are safe. The way to stay safe is to understand the dangers and follow some simple rules for keeping out of trouble.