



[HOME](#) / [PRIVACY](#)

Student Teacher Sent a Private Snapchat Complaining About Her Workday. An Hour Later, Police Pulled Up to Her School.

Snapchat's automated system flagged a private DM to three contacts and triggered an FBI alert in under 60 minutes, ending her

Manage Your Privacy

experiences, our 141 partners and we use cookies to store and/or access device information. Technologies will allow us and our partners to process your browsing behavior and unique IDs, on this site. You can opt out at any time by clicking on the Update Privacy button at the bottom of the screen. We use this data to:

to select advertising

based on information actively requested

ocation data

to select content

ect All

Manage Settings

Accept All

read



Image: Deposit Photos

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Snapchat's automated AI flagged a private message and alerted the FBI within 60 minutes.
- Snapchat retains ability to scan private messages server-side without end-to-end encryption protections.
- Volpe's arrest demonstrates a pre-built, operational pipeline connecting private messages to law enforcement.

JOIN OVER 150K READERS

Join 100,000+ readers discovering the coolest gadgets, smart buying guides, and the tech news that actually matters.

Enter your email [Subscribe](#)



LATEST LISTS

1
4
B
e
st
P
e
r
s
o
n
al
It
e
m
s
fo
r
T
r
a
v
el



Sixty minutes. That’s how long it took for a private Snapchat message to travel from Kristen Volpe’s phone to the FBI to the deputies standing in her elementary school hallway. On [January 29, 2025](#), the 22-year-old student teacher at John L. Hensey Elementary in Washington, Illinois, vented to her boyfriend and two roommates — three people total — after a student closed her laptop mid-class and wiped her lesson plan. She referenced shooting the student or the school. She meant it as a frustrated joke. Snapchat’s [algorithm](#) didn’t get the humor.

Manage Your Privacy

periences, our 141 partners and we use
ies to store and/or access device information.
echnologies will allow us and our partners to process
s browsing behavior and unique IDs, on this site. You
es at any time by clicking on the Update Privacy
e bottom of the screen. We use this data to:

- o select advertising
- ased on information actively requested
- cation data
- o select content

ect All

Manage Settings

Accept All

You About

s, and an automated
system that moved faster than anyone expected.

T
hi
s
S
u
m
m
e
r
a
n
d
C
o
m
i
n
g
F
a
l
l
J
U
L
3
1
,
2
0
2
6

6
A
I
P
r
o
m
p
t
s
t
o
B
e
a
t
A
T
S
a
n
d



Here’s what happened in sequence:

- A student closed Volpe’s laptop during class, deleting her lesson plan. Frustrated, she sent a private Snapchat message referencing shooting the child or the school — exact phrasing varies across reports.
- The message reached three recipients. Not a public Story. Three people she lived with or dated.
- Snapchat’s **automated AI** flagged the message and reported it to the FBI, which alerted the Tazewell County Sheriff’s Office. Deputies arrived at the school within roughly one hour.
- [Volpe](#) was arrested for **disorderly conduct**, held overnight at Tazewell County Jail, and released on \$0 bond under Illinois’s SAFE-T Act. No formal court charges were filed. Her student-teaching placement was terminated.

Manage Your Privacy

periences, our 141 partners and we use
ies to store and/or access device information.
echnologies will allow us and our partners to process
s browsing behavior and unique IDs, on this site. You
es at any time by clicking on the Update Privacy
e bottom of the screen. We use this data to:

☐ select advertising

☐ based on information actively requested

☐ cation data

☐ select content

L
a
n
d
J
o
b
In
t
e
r
vi
e
w
s
J
U
L
3
1
,
2
0
2
6



1
4
C
a
r
G
a
d
g
e
ts
T
h
a
t
M
a
k
e
Y
o
u
r
D
ri
v





A 22-year-old student teacher in Illinois sent a private Snapchat message to her boyfriend and two roommates.

A student had walked up to her laptop and deleted her lesson plan mid-class. frustrated, she typed something like "should I shoot him" with a gun emoji. venting. four [Show more](#)

Manage Your Privacy

periences, our 141 partners and we use
ies to store and/or access device information.
echnologies will allow us and our partners to process
s browsing behavior and unique IDs, on this site. You
es at any time by clicking on the Update Privacy
e bottom of the screen. We use this data to:

o select advertising

ased on information actively requested

cation data

o select content

ect All

Manage Settings

Accept All

razz

message. Snapchat's
efore any human she



worker. The flag was

entirely automated. Snapchat's policy permits voluntary **emergency disclosures** to law enforcement — no warrant required — when the platform determines imminent harm exists. The algorithm makes that initial call. Think of it like your [Ring doorbell](#) deciding to call 911 on its own, except the doorbell is reading your text messages.

On [bodycam footage](#), Volpe described the message as "a joke" made out of frustration, acknowledged it was "stupid," and noted it was sent "only to three people."

e
M
o
r
e
C
o
m
fo
rt
a
bl
e
a
n
d
L
e
s
s
lr
ri
t
a
ti
n
g
J
U
L
3
0
,
2
0
2
6



GR_ WHY TRUST GADGET REVIEW

With over 25 years of experience, our editorial process is built on human expertise, ensuring that every article is reliable and

The school-safety argument is straightforward: after decades of mass school shootings, any message referencing shooting a child demands an immediate response. Deputies concluded there was no actual threat — but only after arriving, interviewing her, and reviewing her phone. The civil-liberties counterargument is equally blunt: an opaque algorithm set the threshold for “risk of harm,” and Volpe received zero notification before law enforcement walked into her classroom.

trustworthy. AI helps us shape our content to be as succinct and engaging as possible.

Learn more about our commitment to integrity in our [Code of Ethics](#).

What “Private” Actually Means Now

The gap between what users assume and what platforms actually do with direct messages keeps widening.

Your Snapchat DMs feel like a locked apartment — but the building

Manage Your Privacy

Experiences, our 141 partners and we use cookies to store and/or access device information. Technologies will allow us and our partners to process your browsing behavior and unique IDs, on this site. You can opt out at any time by clicking on the Update Privacy link at the bottom of the screen. We use this data to:

- to select advertising
- based on information actively requested
- location data
- to select content

Accept All

Manage Settings

end-to-end encrypted messages. According to reports, Snapchat stores private messages server-side on Facebook and Instagram. It has deleted private content and prioritized user privacy over potential self-harm. The “Snapchat AI → FBI → 911” — is now the most popular infrastructure most users have. Snapchat did no formal charges and did produce was a clear violation of our private messages and data. It was optional, and considerably faster than anyone venting into a group chat reasonably assumed.

SHARE THIS



YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

- California’s DROP Tool Erases Your Data From 600+ Brokers at Once – Here’s How To Use It
- Why a Flock Safety Insider Quit: He Says They Lied



GR_ OUR EDITORIAL PROCESS

At Gadget Review, our guides, reviews, and news are driven by thorough human expertise and use our [Trust Rating system](#) and the [True Score](#). AI assists in refining our editorial process, ensuring that every article is engaging, clear and succinct. [See how we write our content here](#) →

Manage Your Privacy

experiences, our 141 partners and we use cookies to store and/or access device information. Technologies will allow us and our partners to process your browsing behavior and unique IDs, on this site. You can opt out at any time by clicking on the Update Privacy button at the bottom of the screen. We use this data to:

- select advertising
- select content

Accept All Manage Settings

Accept All

15 hours ago

ANNEMARIJE DE BOER · 15 hours ago

Xbox Series X Now Costs €200 More in Europe
ALEX BARRIENTOS · 15 hours ago

Country Music Stars Unite & Revolt Against AI Data Centers
NIKSHEP MYLE · 16 hours ago

The AI Boom Is Placing Nearly 1,900 Schools Next to Data Centers
NIKSHEP MYLE · 16 hours ago

LATEST BUYING GUIDES_

LATEST REVIEWS_

Dualit 4 Slice Classic Toaster Review

Dyson PencilVac Review

Vevor 2000 PSI Electric Pressure Washer Review: Strong Cleaning and Smart Value at \$105

✓

86*Absolutely Fresh*

C. DA COSTA

HoverAir X1 Pro Max Review

✓

85*Absolutely Fresh*

C. DA COSTA

Viaim RecDot Review: The First Earbuds That Actually Justify the Word “AI”

✓

88*Absolutely Fresh*

C. DA COSTA

Manage Your Privacy

experiences, our 141 partners and we use cookies to store and/or access device information. Technologies will allow us and our partners to process your browsing behavior and unique IDs, on this site. You can opt out at any time by clicking on the Update Privacy button at the bottom of the screen. We use this data to:

- to select advertising
- based on information actively requested
- location data
- to select content

ect All

Manage Settings

Accept All

How to Make Speakers Bluetooth

How to Connect Bluetooth Speakers to a PC

How to Connect Bluetooth Speakers to an Xbox One

ALL CATEGORIES_

- TVs
- Soundbars
- Office Chairs
- Gaming Chairs
- Speakers
- Printers
- Computer Monitors
- Gaming Headsets
- Routers
- Projectors
- Vacuum Cleaners
- Air Conditioners

Can You Trust What You Read Online?

Fake reviews are taking over tech journalism—45% of publications are faking product tests.

Sign up now for exclusive access to Gadget Review’s bombshell investigation. Plus, stay ahead with our daily newsletter, packed with news, lists, and deals you can trust.

[Yes, I’m in! →](#)

Manage Your Privacy

Experiences, our 141 partners and we use cookies to store and/or access device information. Technologies will allow us and our partners to process your browsing behavior and unique IDs, on this site. You can opt out at any time by clicking on the Update Privacy button at the bottom of the screen. We use this data to:

- select advertising
- based on information actively requested
- location data
- select content

Reject All

Manage Settings

Accept All

PARTNER WITH US

Advertising Options

INSIDE GR

- Why We Exist
- How We Get Our Data
- How We Test The Testers
- How We Score
- How We Make Money
- Partnerships
- Code of Ethics
- Do Not Sell My Info
- Limit Use of My Data
- Contact Us

CATEGORIES

- Categories In Progress
- Latest Reviews
- TVs
- Soundbars
- Computer Monitors
- Gaming Headsets
- Speakers
- Vehicles



Made With