

Adolescence, privacy, and the law: a developmental science perspective

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Abstrak

The right to privacy figures prominently in popular discourse and law. Its popularity, however, is not matched by the respect it receives. A close look at empirical understandings of privacy, how it shapes development, and how privacy itself can be shaped, provides important lessons for addressing the critical juncture facing privacy rights and privacy itself. To increase respect for privacy and foster privacy's effective outcomes, society must capitalize on opportunities to shape adolescents' use of privacy. Yet, as currently developed, the legal system has difficulty recognizing adolescents' privacy rights and supporting systems that would shape adolescents' skills and abilities in ways that would foster respect for privacy. As a result, the system fails to address the needs of adolescents and society. The upshot is that a developmental understanding of privacy essentially asks that the legal system take an entirely different approach to adolescents' privacy. This book provides the foundation for understanding privacy rights and how they relate to adolescents. It then explores the place of privacy in adolescent development and builds on that understanding to chart ways to better address adolescents' privacy needs and rights as well as society's broader privacy interests. It argues that privacy actually is an inherently social phenomenon, one that can and must be shaped more effectively.