

A 911 Call about Vacation

A Mississauga teenager was cautioned by the Ontario Provincial Police after she called 911 to complain that her parents “forced her” to go on vacation with them at a rental cottage east of Toronto.

“This appeared to be a case of a teenager being a teenager,” Constable Steve Bates told CBC News. “Although she perceived this as a real issue, it was not an appropriate use of 911.”

Officers attended the rental cottage on Trent River, northeast of Toronto, to ensure everyone was safe and that there was no real emergency, Bates said.

The 15-year-old girl has been cautioned for misuse of the emergency number. “Calls such as this tie up police resources that could impact the safety of others in the community who are in real need of assistance,” Bates said.



This young lady suffered from a case of “first-world problems,” defined by *Merriam-Webster* as “a usually minor or trivial problem or annoyance experienced by people in relatively affluent or privileged circumstances as contrasted with problems of greater social significance facing people in poor and underdeveloped parts of the world.”

But you don’t have to live in the first world to suffer from this condition. Whether we are rich or poor, first world or third world, we all suffer from first-person problems. This condition is the direct result of viewing life from a first-person perspective.

We do this when we become so self-absorbed that we don’t appreciate our many blessings, or see the real needs around us. The solution is to shift our focus away from ourselves and on to the genuine needs of others, to choose to take on a third-person focus.

Our associates in Life Care and Century Park have learned this important principle. Daily, they invest their time, their talents, and their heart in the residents they serve. It is a selfless approach to life, and it produces true joy and contentment in living.

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, taught about and became the example of servant leadership.

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28 NLT).

– Beecher Hunter