

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Korea Communications Commission urges youth to be cautious of sending illegal gambling spam text messages**

*Sending illegal spam text messages alone can lead to criminal punishment*

The Korea Communications Commission (KCC, chairman Han Sang-hyuk) and Korea Internet Security Agency (KISA, chairman Lee Won-tae) said that the adolescent and their parents should be aware of misleading the adolescent using advertising phrases like “the simplest and easiest part-time job” into part-time work sending illegal gambling spam text messages.

The KCC and KISA recently announced that advertisements such as "texting part-time jobs" and "easy and simple part-time job just with your phone" are being exposed to teenagers on social media such as Facebook.

Specifically, teenagers who have seen the advertisement are asked to add a friend with their mobile messenger ID (Kakao Talk ID), learn advertising phrases to be sent and how to send them, and are ordered to send about 490 illegal gambling spam text messages per day with a large number of mobile phone numbers. For reference, mobile carriers limit the number of text messages an individual can send per day to 500 as part of spam prevention measures.

The problem is that teenagers who do the texting part-time job may not know that this is a legal problem, but in fact, such transmission is a crime that violates the Act on Promotion of Information and Communications Network Utilization and Information Protection and can be criminally punished.

According to Article 74 of the Act on Promotion of Information and Communications Network Utilization and Information Protection, a person who transmits any advertising information on goods or services prohibited by the law is to be sentenced to up to one year in prison or fined up to 10 million won. In addition, the mobile phone numbers of teenagers who transmit illegal spam will be subject to the disadvantage of being suspended under Article 50-4, Paragraph 4 of the Act on Promotion of Information and Communications Network Utilization and Information Protection.

The KCC said, "We plan to actively respond to the recent behavior of letting teenagers send illegal spam under the guise of simple part-time jobs. We will strengthen joint inspections of illegal spam senders with investigative agencies and the KISA and cooperate with the Ministry of Education to ensure that related information is sent to households," adding “Please be aware of those illegal part-time job advertisements not to be misled.”

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The Korea Communications Commission