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# Cellphones squeal

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*Surveys abroad show that the mobile is the number one give away in extramarital affairs and cheating*

Ever tried to cover up a phone call you got and pretend it was someone else? Ever been suspicious that your partner's [mobile phone](#) calls aren't from whom they say they are? A survey by an Italian private investigation company says that in nearly 90 per cent of cases, it is the mobile [phone](#) which reveals or betrays extramarital activities.

Miriam Tomponzi, Italy's most glamorous private investigator, who conducted the survey, says in a report that in 87 per cent of cases of infidelity it is the contact via the mobile phone which raises suspicions and eventually gives the game away. An earlier study in Singapore showed that nine out of 10 cases of extramarital affairs are exposed through cellular phone habits -- a fact confirmed by private investigators and lawyers.

Yet another study in the UK has squarely blamed new forms of communication as being instrumental in the initial conception of infidelity. Sending flirtatious e-mails or phone texts behind a partner's back is just as damaging as a 'reallife' affair, say UK-based psychologists in the research report.

Things are no different in Bangalore. Says private investigator P Ravindranath, "I just handled a case where a woman grew suspicious after a few [text messages](#) her husband received. She brought the case to us. We tailed the husband and found that he was having an affair."

Shankar Anand, counsellor, says, "Discovery that a partner is e-mailing or [texting](#) someone -- regardless of whether the pair actually meet -- can damage relationships and cause break-ups."

But is an SMS enough evidence in court for divorce? Lawyer Sheila Dawson says, "While SMS messages are admissible as evidence, they can only prove a liaison exists, not [adultery](#)."  
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**What smart cheats do...**

- \* They immediately delete any message from a lover, which could give the game away. If they do not want to delete a message they are sentimental about, they keep another mobile in a secret place and forward the messages to that mobile
- \* They practise and prepare for when they receive a phone call from their lover in front of their partner
- \* They practise in front of a mirror, pretending that a relative has called
- \* They rarely say 'It was a wrong number' or 'You're breaking up I can't hear you'

**Listening in**

- \* Nearly one-third of the people in the Italian survey admitted using new technology to flirt with a potential partner
- \* Of those, 22 per cent confessed to doing so every day while 62 per cent said they did once a week
- \* One in seven admitted to secretly scanning their partners e-mails and phone logs to make sure they were not playing around. One in five said they had discovered a flirty message from an unknown source
- \* 13 per cent of snoops admitted they had found secret texts that criticised them

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