



**Garbage
In...** ←

**Garbage
Out.** →

Everything that enters the mind influences how we think and act.

"Be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing." Corinthians 6:17

www.strengthenfamily.net

Citizens for Families

Coalition For Community Standards



**To Strengthen Our Families We Need to Understand the Following
Information:**

By JoAnn Hibbert Hamilton

www.strengthenfamily.net

Parents Need to Be Aware of the Following Facts:

1. Sellers of pornography purposely try to expose our children. The reason for this is that children exposed to hard-core pornography as teens and younger are more likely to be sexually addicted later, and so in the long run sellers of pornography will make more money. (Dr. Rick Hawks, psychologist, director of ldsmentalhealth.org) This is why you find magazines with inappropriate covers placed on the lower racks of stores. They desensitize our children. Magazine

vendors purchase those spots.

2. When a child types a Disney name on the computer and accidentally misspells the name, unless you have a filter, the child pulls up a porn site. Then porn advertisers link their sites so the child cannot properly exit the computer and so he ends up with about ten minutes of hard-core pornography. Because of the impact of the experience, this will remain in his mind all of his life easily teasing and tantalizing the child. Porn people continually try to find new and more effective ways to break through the filters so more people are exposed. They know the power of even a single exposure. There is an adult video news magazine that helps pornography vendors be more effective in their sales. They also hold conferences each year to promote sales. Sellers of pornography want money at any price.
3. Ninety-five percent of children under ten in the United States have been exposed to pornography. (Phil Burrell, President, Citizens for Community Values, Impact America Conference, Ft. Mitchell, Ky., April, 2000) This is due to magazines in checkout lanes, movies, videos, etc.
4. John Harmer said that four out of five youth between twelve and fourteen in Utah have been exposed to hard core pornography a number of times. (Attorney who worked against pornography for over 32 years, author, *The War We Must Win*, Sept., 2000, Kaysville South Stake Training Session). This means that unless we intervene, these youth are more likely to have problems later. Addiction can come in as little as one exposure to Internet pornography or perhaps in just two weeks because of the availability of quick escalation on the Internet. (Hawks, op.cit.)
5. The movie industry is purposely exposing our children. From September 1-20, 2000, 83% of movie advertisements on television during family hours were for R rated movies. This was purposely done. (Parents Television Council, PTC Insider, Nov. 2000)
6. "At the American Library Association's annual conference in Chicago in July 2000, one of the sessions focused not on whether public libraries should stock pornography, but rather how to do it without controversy." (American Family Association Journal, Sept., 2000)
7. More than one forth (27.5%) of children under the age of 17 who use the Internet visited adult sites in September of 2000, according to a study by Net Value. (2000 Annual Report, National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families, p. 2) They also say that pornography desensitizes the viewer. It always escalates. Exposure encourages deviant sexual behaviors. "In the worst cases, the user 'acts out' the activities seen in pornography." It shapes attitudes and the way people view relationships by "normalizing aggression towards women. "Pornography's messages about sex and sexual fulfillment are misleading. Fulfillment comes from personal, human relationships, not media." ("Warning: What you risk by using

porn," National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families, p. 3)

8. In June of 2000, The Crimes Against Children Research Center released a new study of young people's experiences online, based on interviews of 1,501 youth ages 10 to 17 who use the Internet regularly. One in four had an unwanted exposure to soft core porn (nudity) in the last year (1999). Then can we assume that one of four was exposed in the year 2000 and one of four in the year, 2001. What about 2002? How extensive is exposure? One in five received a sexual solicitation over the Internet in the last year. (Enough is Enough Newsletter, Fall 2000, Vol. 8, No. 2) Sixty percent of the unwanted exposures to sexual material and 75% of the sexual solicitations were not reported to a parent. 44% were not discussed with anyone.



Places Where Exposure to Inappropriate Pictures Takes Place:

1. Grocery store check out lanes -- magazines
2. Malls and stores
3. Playgrounds -- bad pictures, comments, jokes, stories
4. Catalogs -- intimate apparel, etc.
5. Magazines -- computer games, sports, etc.
6. Television
7. Commercials
8. Videos
9. Video Games
10. Movies
11. Sleepovers
12. Internet -- accidental and curious response to teasers (addiction can come in a single exposure or in as little as two weeks)
13. Libraries -- magazines, books, Internet
14. Schools -- Do they have a white filter, a white list, a bubble or a sandbox?
Express concerns to teachers, principal, school board.

Note. Express concerns on any issue of this kind to Paula Houston, Obscenities Complaints Ombudsman @ 801-538-9600



Preventing Exposure: A Parent's Checklist

1. Keep all forms of inappropriate material out of your home.
2. Place the computer in an open, supervised area of your home.
3. Install a filter on your Internet.
4. Learn enough about your computer so you can see what sites have been visited.
5. Check your filter's history every day.
6. Go to www.strengthenfamily.net to know today if anyone, perhaps a friend of your children, has pulled up pornography on your computer and perhaps shown it to your children. Click on Content Watch and then click on Content Audit. This will give you a list of everything that has ever been on your computer, according to Content Watch owners. There is no cost up to this point.
7. "Ask" your children what they have seen.
8. Check out every disk that comes into your home.
9. Free disks with free hours of usage makes it so there is no filter on your computer. It now uses another system.
10. Teach children to "crash and tell," i.e., immediately turn the computer off and then tell the teacher if it is at school as well as tell a parent.
11. Talk to your child about the guilt he/she will feel if they accidentally pull up a porn site.
12. Avoid sleepovers.
13. Monitor movies, television and videos that you or your children see. Repeated exposure to "one bad scene" accumulates and desensitizes.
14. Role play with children as young as six about how to act when they are approached with the bad story, the bad picture, or the bad joke.
15. Prepare older children for teenage feelings. Teach them the quickness of addiction, the beauty of true intimacy, the things they will lose if they get involved with pornography.
16. Warn children to stay out of chat rooms, out of newsgroups, and off instant messages.
17. Recognize that girls as well as guys are getting involved with pornography. Explain the differences to them.
18. Have rules.
19. You might register a teenager as a 95 year-old woman.
20. Maintain a good relationship with your children and teens so you can openly discuss these matters.
21. Have an emotional, verbal, and physical (hugs) closeness with each child.
22. Teach your child/teen that they cannot afford to be curious.
23. Take time to teach your children "why" it is not "just a bad picture," i.e. pornography is "more-ish". It never satisfies and always accelerates. It is easily addictive and can make it so the person cannot find happiness in his/her marriage.
24. Teach them that pornography is a temporary fix.
25. Teach children/youth the deceptiveness of advertising.
26. Teach children/youth that they cannot believe everything the magazines say.
27. Take time to talk to your child about what he's hearing in school.
28. Take one-on-one time with each child.

29. Take time to have fun with your children, listen to them and give them a lot of positive comments. Help them feel good about themselves and keep the avenues of communication open so they will be open with you.
30. Teach gospel principles and life principles to each child.
31. Know that once your child is protected in your home, he is not protected in the community.
32. Use the scriptures and the words of our Prophet to help you teach your children.
33. Be an example of clean living in your own home. your choice of recreation, and the way you treat one another as a couple will influence your children.
34. Know that politely speaking up whenever you see something in a store that offends you DOES make a difference. Silence means acceptance. one storeowner said that if six or eight people mention something at the service desk in a two-week period of time, he responds. that is the key. As neighbors, choose a store and work together. I suggest that you do not use the word "pornography," because there are varying opinions as to what is pornography. Instead ask, "Would you please cover or remove the magazines (or anything else) that is inappropriate for children?" If it is hard for you to "say" this, write it on the back of your sales slip and just hand it to someone at the service desk. (For additional help, call me at 801-295-7590.)

REMEMBER: Just because it's legal doesn't make it good for your family.



Know the Warning Signs of a Child at Risk

I can talk to most teens and adults for a few minutes and pretty well tell if they are involved in pornography. I can do this because I understand the principle that all babies are born innocent. If a young man grows to be eighteen years of age and then sees his first "bad picture," he is shocked. Most of us have been "desensitized" to one degree or another. You can tell to some degree the amount of desensitization a person has just by listening to them. Below are signs of desensitization that usually accompany exposure to pornography:

1. Your child spends large amounts of time online, especially at night.
2. Your child turns the computer monitor off or quickly changes the screen on the monitor when you come into the room.
3. Your teen locks the door when working on the computer.
4. You catch some lying about computer use. (A child/teen who is totally honest will lie about this.)
5. A teen/child isolates from his friends, is depressed and leaves formerly enjoyed pursuits. He becomes withdrawn from the family.
6. You find pornography on your child's computer.
7. When you check sites your child has visited, they are all erased.
8. Picture files are check and are inappropriate.
9. A teen or child will change his thinking. Things that he formerly thought were bad won't seem so bad any more. He will think you have a problem.
10. Tolerance for bad movies will change.
11. Dating patterns may change and ideas of appropriateness become much more liberal.
12. Your teen now notices bodies instead of focusing on relationships.
13. You will notice a loss of respect for girls and women.
14. Your teen/child may act out sexual behavior. "Peeking" and "improper touching" even in fun are considered "sexual behavior."
15. A high phone bill with unfamiliar numbers is a good indicator.
16. Your child is using an online account belonging to someone else.
17. Stealing is an indicator that there is a problem.
18. Time in chat rooms is usually a problem.
19. The teen doesn't like him/herself.
20. Your child receives phone calls from men you don't know or he is making calls to people you don't know.
21. Your child receives mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don't know.
22. Your teen won't talk about what is bothering him/her.
23. If a child acts repulsed by, afraid of, or doesn't want to be with a relative, friend or family member, you might suspect sexual abuse, the source of which is often pornography.
24. Know that pornography use is like drug abuse in that if you see just the tip of the iceberg, i.e., a little bit of a problem, the likelihood is that there is a huge iceberg underneath the water that you haven't yet seen.
25. Know that the higher your child's IQ is, the more quickly he can become addicted.
26. E-mail teasers are hard for some youth to resist. They have been carefully worded

- to lure youth into pornography. At the Impact America Conference it was said that any good boy or girl who had the Internet in his bedroom would fall.
27. Some signs that a married person might be involved in pornography are:
- a. Distance in the marriage relationship.
 - b. Disrespect
 - c. Dissatisfaction with intimacy
 - d. Unreasonable demands on the other spouse for change and non-conventional sex
 - e. A secret file or area of the home or office
 - f. Excessive time on the computer in a private area
 - g. Internet use late at night or behind a locked door
 - h. Desire for porn movies to "improve" the sexual relationship
 - i. Laughter and amusement with sex toys
 - j. Inappropriate talk and jokes
 - k. Inappropriate magazines
 - l. Unexplained time away from home
 - m. Lies
 - n. An excessive phone bill and/or refusal to talk about this area of the relationship
 - o. Exposing children to inappropriate literature or pictures



Be Aware of the Lies Children/Youth Hear in School and Provide Answers

Lies:

1. One picture won't hurt.
2. Everybody's seeing those pictures.
3. Have fun now! Repent later. There's time.
4. This is fun!
5. The Church just wants to limit our fun.
6. Don't let your parents know.
7. Don't talk to your Bishop.
8. Once you're addicted, there's no way out.
9. It will improve your intimacy.
10. There's just one bad scene. No big deal!
11. I can handle violence in a movie. That doesn't matter.
12. What is says in the magazines is true.
13. Pornography doesn't hurt anybody.
14. I'm not pretty/handsome and so I'll probably never marry, and so this won't hurt me.
15. It's my business what I choose to see. It doesn't affect anyone else.



**KNOW THAT THERE IS A WAY OUT FOR A CHILD, A YOUTH,
OR AN ADULT WHO IS INVOLVED WITH THIS PROBLEM.**

"Lots of people pull out of this problem," states Dr. Allan Roe.

"God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Cor. 10:13)

Ideally, it is best not to get involved in pornography, but if you or a family member does get involved, there is a way out. It is the most difficult addiction to work with, but it is possible.

Most people need support of four elements:

1. A bishop who understands this problem.
2. Activating the atonement.
3. A counselor who has had experience and training in working with sexual addiction.
4. A support person or group.



Advice About Children And The Internet

JoAnn Hibbert Hamilton

A Minute For Parents, Davis County Clipper

These ideas come from Jacques du Plessis, a graduate student studying computers and the Internet at Utah State University. He and I were the only people from Utah who attended the National Pro-Family conference in Cincinnati, which focused on how to protect our families as well as clean up the pornography in our communities. Following are some of his ideas for parents:

1. Do not hide behind your computer illiteracy. Start learning and informing yourself today. (I might add that two of my sons took upon themselves the responsibility of teaching me about the computer. I must admit that I did give them a bit of static and I was difficult to teach. I felt so utterly stupid and I seemed to forget each week what was taught the week before. After weeks of effort one night, the whole idea of files seemed clear. I couldn't believe how simple it was. Then with patience my son who lives closest continued to answer my questions. I am so grateful for the help.)
2. Leaving children to surf the Web unattended, is like dropping them off in a gang infested neighborhood and telling them you will pick them up at midnight. Place your computer in your home where all activity can be easily monitored. Avoid basements and back rooms.
3. Monitor your children's usage of the Internet. For both Netscape and Explorer you can press on Control-H to view the history of sites visited in the last week or so. If the history is always empty that will be a telling sign. Someone visiting inappropriate sites, may open the history beforehand, and selectively erase certain URLs (web site addresses). You can also look at pictures in the browser's cache folder. All incoming pictures are stored there and reused if needed. These pictures usually have a .JPEG .JPG or .GIF extension.
4. Ensure you know what your children do on the Web and who they communicate with on the net.
5. Discuss Internet usage with your children. Do not make it a one-side speech. Encourage your children to express themselves about how they see the problem and what they can do to avoid trouble. If you do all the talking, you have no good idea of how your child feels about the issue, and that is what really matters.
6. Make use of the parental controls. This can be found under "Internet Options." WARNING: These controls are not very effective.
7. Block chat rooms and instant messages. This was highly recommended at the conference.

8. Install a filtering/blocking program. You will want a “white list,” also called a “sandbox,” or a “closed filter.” This means all of the sites have been checked before they come onto your computer.
9. Do not let your children share personal information on the Web. This is what pedophiles use to track their victims.
10. Teach your children to not respond to impolite, suspicious or enticing messages.
11. Do not let your children exchange pictures on the Internet without permission and supervision from you.
12. Teach your children to be balanced. That means they do not spend too much time on the Net, specifically late at night.
13. Make sure your children will immediately inform you of any unusual experience on the web.
14. Pay attention to any change in your child’s behavior or mood. (Example: Talk about adults you do not know, is secretive, uses inappropriate language with sexual innuendoes, insomnia, etc.) It might indicate something is not in order.
15. Do not neglect your duty as your child’s prime source for information about sexuality. If you have not explicitly and implicitly by your example provided your children with the appropriate frame of reference, based on your values, you have done your children a grave disservice.
16. Maybe create a sticker that can be attached to the edge of the computer.
17. Teach your youth to shun materials that are inappropriate.
18. Do not be passive and hope all will somehow work out. The threat is overwhelming.

I want to add three more:

- Know that your youth can put inappropriate things on your computer by inserting a disk someone has given him.
- Teach your children to “crash” and tell. That means if your child accidentally pulls up a porn site he should immediately turn the computer off rather than exit properly. Sellers of porn link their advertisements and so if your child accidentally pulls up the porn site and tries to exit, the computer will not let him do so until he has seen perhaps ten minutes of hard core pornography.

- Your child needs to be taught in advance to “tell” you. That way you are aware of the problem, can keep the door of communication open and reassure the child that it was not his fault; otherwise, he will internalize guilt as a result of the experience. Even so, once those images are in the child’s brain, he has to be taught how to deal with them. The mind can only hold one picture at a time, so if the image returns, he needs to be taught to immediately replace it with another wholesome picture of his choice.

To obtain more information concerning your children and the Internet, I really recommend the book entitled Kids Online – Protecting Your Children In Cyberspace, Donna Rice Hughes, Reming H. Revell, a division of Baker Book House Company, P.O. Box 6287, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287



What Do I Do If I Find My Third Grade Boy Accidentally Opened A Pornography Site?

1. It is easier to prevent this from happening than to remedy it after it has occurred. Prevention involves having a closed system on your own Internet software, encouraging your neighbors to do the same, having the computer in a common area of your home where you can easily watch it, checking any disks your child brings into your home, and accessing the sites on the computer that he has been on. Prevention also includes teaching you child to turn the computer off immediately if a “bad picture” comes up and then telling you right away. Also, be aware that your public library has an open system with no filters and that XXX pornography is easily accessible and often accidentally pulled up. Encouraging the school to have a closed system is extremely important. Again, teach you child to shut down the computer at school or at the library. Then report to the teacher and/or the librarian, and always tell you the parent as soon as possible. Help remove sexual material out of grocery store checkout lanes so the early exposure of your child does not start there.
2. A child was doing a report on dragons at school and a pornographic site surfaced. It was linked to other pornography sites, so the child could not exit the system immediately. The child did not know he should turn off the power button. As a result, the child watched ten minutes of hard core pornography. When the mother found out she was concerned and called Dr. Victor Cline. He recommended that the mother talk to the child about the fact that he should not feel guilty because this happened. The child should be reminded that it was not his fault. It is important that the parent stay calm.
3. The mother (father) was told to observe the child’s eating and sleeping habits. She was to notice if they changed or if he had nightmares. She was to tell the child to talk to her if what he had seen was bothering him.
4. If problems occurred, they would probably need some therapy for the boy, but Dr. Cline recommends that too much talk about the incident could reinforce and bring back the negative impact in the child’s mind.



What Do I Do If I Find My 13 Year Old Is Looking At Internet Pornography?

(The information in this section was provided by JoAnn Larson, Ph.D., social work, therapist, author.)

1. It is important for the parent to stay calm and to sit down with the teenager and acknowledge the problem. The parent should spend about an hour **JUST LISTENING** and not imposing any harsh judgment on the teen.
2. At the end of the listening time, the parent needs to say, “We have to do something. What are your ideas as to what we should do?”
3. Add to their suggestions, “For your protection, we are shutting down the Internet.”
4. Take the child to a therapist. Have the youth evaluated as to the extensiveness of the problem. Some counselors are better than others working with youth. The counselor needs to be experienced working with sexual addiction.

Make sure the therapist knows about bi-polar disorders because that is sometimes the driving force underlying the addiction. Dr. Larson cautions, “Most often and extremely under diagnosed, there is generally a bi-polar disorder that leads to addiction. The bi-polar disorder itself often has a symptomatic component of high sexual drive, which attracts children to pornography. Children and teens with this disorder will use the Internet pornography to self-medicate which in turn becomes an addiction. Youth with this disorder have emotions that are unstable. They are distractible, get angry easily, sometimes display rage, are irritable, will often distort what you say so the message is turned around, have mood swings, unpredictable behavior, seem unable to process accurately information from adults, are highly resistant to change, have symptoms of withdrawal; such as a tendency to withdraw into music, computers, etc. One way parents have of addressing the situation of pornography is to take a hard look at the possibilities of a disorder of this type. If this is the case, the therapist will work in conjunction with a physician who will prescribe a medical treatment for the disorder. Generally the medication will include an anti-depressant and mood stabilizer. The two medications together have significant potential to decrease or cut an addiction.



What Do I Do If I Find My Husband/Wife Is Using Pornography?

Written and compiled by JoAnn Hibbert Hamilton

1. Working through spouse addiction in a marriage is very difficult, but IT CAN BE DONE.
2. **KNOWLEDGE GIVES POWER.** Reading books and learning about sexual addiction is a good starting point. I particularly like *Turn Yourself and Live*, by Rod Jeppsen, *Out of the Shadows Understanding Sexual Addiction* and *Don't Call It Love*, both by Patrick Carnes, Ph.D. These books will help the user of porn., the spouses and their family understand the nature of the problem. *The Worth of a Soul*, a book by Steven A. Cramer and *Breaking the Chains of Pornography*, an article, in the February, 2001 "Ensign" p. 54-59 (Published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) give hope and show that difficult as addiction is, it is possible to work through.
3. Dr. Victor Cline, Ph.D. (therapist for sexual addictions, author, and lecturer) explains that there needs to be a clear understanding that "self control, self-discipline, willpower and just wanting to quit—rarely work by themselves. The addiction often involves living a secret life because of fear of losing one's family/spouse, possible loss of employment, breaking the law, and loss of social esteem in the community. These reasons lead to frequent deceptions, lies, living a double life, etc. There is a striking loss of free agency.
4. "Affiliate with a 12 step 'support' designed for people with this problem: examples include Sexaholics Anonymous (S.A. call 261-2772 SLC). There is no cost. They meet Mondays 6:00 PM at the Hope Chapel, 1624 S. 1000 W. in SLC. It is patterned after the Alcoholics Anonymous program. The core is very spiritual in nature. An LDS Family Services group for offenders is headed by Rick Bashaw (240-6500 in SLC). After visiting S.A. you should choose a sponsor (someone who has achieved good sobriety) who you can call anytime 24 hours a day if you need help in fighting temptation or the 'wave'". (Dr. Cline).
5. Dr. Cline continues, "You also need a skilled counselor with good values who has had successful experience in treating sexual/porn addicts. This is a specialty area. Most graduate schools don't yet teach or train in this area, so finding a good therapist who knows how to heal will require a little research on your part. They may not exist in small communities. Suggestion: attend S.A. and ask the fellow members about the therapist they are meeting with who they have found most helpful, who they would recommend and who has values similar to yours." Dr. Cline has a booklet entitled *Pornography's Effects on Adults and Children* which is available at cost from Morality in Media.
6. Spouses can be helpful as a support if there is communication and the addicted husband/wife is working with a counselor and a support group.



How To Help Your Child Avoid Sexual Abuse; How To Comfortably Find Out If Sexual Abuse Has Already Occurred, And How To React In A Positive Way If It Has

(Information provided by JoAnn Hibbert Hamilton)

1. Establish a loving relationship with your children so they will talk to you and listen to you.
2. Talk to you children one at a time. Find a comfortable quiet place to talk alone without distractions or interruptions, a place where the child will feel safe. Let the child share fun and happy things. Show approval, then ask:
 - Janie, do you know what parts of your body are private parts?
 - Yes, that's right, the parts of you body that are covered by a modest two piece swimming suit.
 - Janie, if someone ever touches those parts, they will tell you not to tell. It is no the right thing to do. Has someone ever done that to you?

If the answer is “no” remind them, if someone wants to, they should say “no” and get away from the person as quickly as possible. Instruct them to tell their parents or another adult who is in charge, such as a teacher as soon as possible. If the answer is “yes,” do the following:

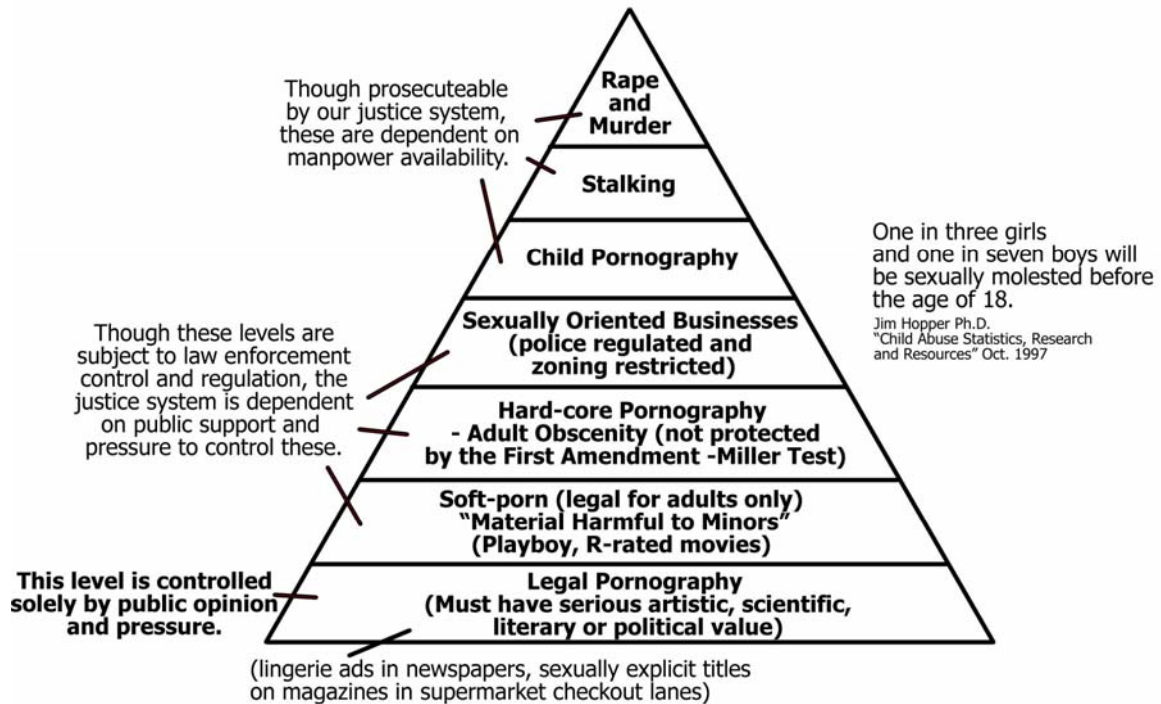
1. **Don't over-react.** To do so often causes the child to shut down, and stops the possibility of therapeutic help.
 2. Calmly ask who it was – not changing the tone of your voice.
 3. Always believe them.
 4. Always validate that it wasn't their fault.
 5. Always say you are so sorry you didn't know sooner so you could have helped sooner.
 6. Never ask, “Why were you there?” or “Why didn't you say so?” The child already feels guilty and responsible and he/she needs to understand it was **NOT HIS/HER FAULT.**
 7. Never ask older children or teens, “Well, what were you wearing?” or “What were you doing?” or “Were you drinking that night?”
 8. Get professional help possibly from someone of you own religion and/or someone who specializes in sexual abuse in the age range of your child.
 9. Go through this procedure with the rest of the family. If one has been abused, often others have been also. Remember you cannot solve a problem you do not know about. Many positive things may happen once the information is known.
3. Go through the family with a dialogue like this about every six months. If there is a problem, the perpetrator needs help or he/she will likely become a sexual offender of many others. If a child can get the professional help he/she needs when they are young, there is much less impact on their life later. The road to

healing will be long and hard, but it will be worth it.

4. If the victim is a girl, and the problem is not dealt with, she will likely react in any number of ways. She may hate boys so far as to never date or want to marry. She may become sexually active. She may purposely gain excessive weight so boys pay no attention to her. She may use drugs to kill the pain and move from that to prostitution. She may eventually overdose or commit suicide. She may have a hard time adjusting to a marriage, have nightmares and illogical behavior. The abuse changes the way the victims think and react to situations. They need help.



Phil Burress said that soft core pornography (and legal pornography) are the worst because they start our children on the path to addiction.



You can make a difference!



Casualness About Displayed Magazines Puts Kids At Risk

JoAnn Hibbert Hamilton

Horizons, A Minute For Parents, Davis County Clipper

Our children's first lessons about sexuality are being taught by the managers of grocery stores as they display magazines that are inappropriate for children to see. Is this who we want to have teach them about sexuality? People in other communities do not allow it because they telephone or speak directly to managers and make them aware that this is not good for their children. They politely and nicely state that this standard is not what they want in their community. They explain that soft core pornography is the worst form of pornography because it introduces it to their children. If enough people speak out, they get results.

The Kroger Co. of Cincinnati, with 2,200 stores in 31 states told Morality in Media that it would introduce a blinder rack policy for Cosmopolitan magazines in all of its stores and they said they would monitor other magazines. The Philadelphia area Genuari supermarket chain, which has 33 stores, announced in February, 2000, that it would put blinders in all of its checkout lanes and magazine aisles to block offensive magazine covers and headlines. These store owners and managers recognized that their displays were hurting children and families and so they made a change. I believe that if our owners and managers understood the problem, they, too, would cover their magazines.

These are getting to be more and more inappropriate pictures and actual nudity in some of these magazines. Our indifference has made this possible. If we allow it, it will get even worse. More women's magazines include sexual articles, sexual advertisements and pictures to illustrate. Any clerk can tell you how the youth run to local stores when the Sports Illustrated Swim Suit edition comes out. By allowing this pervasive element in our community we are setting our children up for future problems. By saying nothing to store managers, we are accepting this as our community standard.

A recent survey found that 75 percent of women are dissatisfied with their bodies and plastic surgeons are seeing an increase of teenage girls coming to their office so that they can look like the ideal model. The base of this situation is that our young girls as little girls are getting their identity from the pictures displayed in magazines in grocery store lines and our young boys are subtly being introduced to pornography. Seeing these pictures makes it easier for children to accept the pornography they are approached with in other aspects of their life. Grocery stores open this door when they display magazines that flaunt sexual pictures.

Before going back east to the National Pro-family Conference I thought there was nothing we could do about it. Back there I learned that there are whole communities that do not even sell "Cosmopolitan." They want to protect their children, and so they speak out on this issue and don't allow it to even be sold. They cover magazines like Glamour, Redbook and Mademoiselle that play up sexually lurid headlines. Pittsburgh is working on this with a campaign called "Take the Garbage out!" San Diego is also working on this, as are other areas across the country.

A national opinion poll conducted by Wirthlin Worldwide in September 1999 found that 73 percent of Americans thought such headlines "inappropriate," and 60 percent favor a store policy of covering up these headlines, or not displaying them at

checkout counters where children can see them every time their parents shop. Among women, the percentages were 81 percent and 64 percent, respectively, and women do most of the grocery shopping.

Dr. Victor Cline stated that there are those who say that people are not affected by what they read and see. That denies the whole notion of education. “At the very least, pornography educates. If you regard pornography as a form of sex education, then you would have to label most of it miseducation because it presents and models so much scientifically inaccurate, false, and misleading information about human sexuality.” (Dr. Victor B. Cline, professor emeritus at the University of Utah and clinical psychologist, “Pornography Has Consequences,” Morality in Media, Inc. 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10115.) Dr. Cline went on to say that pornography “disassociates” sex from love, affection, responsibility and relationship. Thus, if we examine just its educative impact it presents us with some grounds for concern.”

We must explain this to the managers of stores in order to protect our children. Feel free to show this article to them if that helps you approach them on this issue.

Please write me at 1075 East Center Street, Bountiful, Utah 84010 and let me share the positive things that are happening as we establish “family friendly” check out lines. I would love to give recognition to stores who are “family friendly.”



Glossy Garbage; What One Person Can Do About Offensive Grocery Store Magazine Covers

A Brochure from the American Family Association

THE PROBLEM

It is a common occurrence. While parents pay for their groceries at checkout counters, their kids scan the displays for candy and little toys. How often do their eyes light on sexually explicit magazine covers sometimes featuring scantily clad women and often containing salacious headlines? Too often.

That's why American Family Association is launching a national campaign to make grocery and retail store checkouts more child friendly.

Recently, Kroger, the nation's largest grocery store chain, began placing blinders over *Cosmopolitan*, leaving only the title exposed. Company spokesman Gary Rhoades said *Cosmopolitan* covers are "not appropriate for the checkout areas where young children might see them."

THE OFFENSIVE PRODUCT

The publications most often mentioned by offended shoppers are *Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour*, and *Redbook*. With a combined monthly circulation of nearly eight million, these magazines heavily depend upon supermarket and retail store checkout aisles for maximum exposure and sales.

On the February, 2000, cover of *Cosmopolitan*, grocery shoppers were urged to try the "Angel and Eight Other Sizzling Positions. So Hot, You'll Burn A Hole Through The Bed." April's cover of *Glamour* teased children with, "What Men Think About Your Orgasm Face." Shoppers, on the other hand, are urging the stores to clean up their act.

Stories whose sex-laden titles appear on the front cover are a teasing prelude to the pornographic nature of the stories inside. *Cosmopolitan* graphically details sexual foreplay in order to "make him plead for mercy – and beg for more."

Cosmopolitan also allows young children unrestricted access to its website, where they can perform a "virtual boy toy" striptease of men.

THE CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

While many stores have a section solely devoted to the sale of magazines, books and greeting cards, shoppers can avoid these areas with relative ease. However, the checkout aisle presents a problem that even the "if you don't like it, don't look at it" crowd cannot effectively debate.

Product placement is extremely important to magazine marketers. Because *Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour*, and *Redbook* have the highest circulation of ladies' magazines (although only 3% of the nation buys any one of them), they get the premiere slot at the checkout lane – eye level and within easy reach.

Most parents have come to accept that waiting in the checkout lane is part of the shopping process. However, parents should not expect their children to receive an unsolicited sex education class at the same time. Once inside the checkout aisle, there are usually no alternatives but to go forward.

FAMILIES HAVE THE ADVANTAGE

The supermarket industry is one of the most competitive in the nation. Every small town or city has a number of supermarkets battling for the same customer dollars. Each week, national chains spend tens of millions of dollars advertising in local newspapers through color inserts and full-page ads. Even newspapers say that, if not for competition, they would feel a significant impact in reduced ad revenues. This certainly gives the grocery shopper a legitimate advantage when approaching the local store manager.

By combining efforts, communities can apply financial pressure in convincing stubborn supermarkets to seriously address customer concerns regarding the display of inappropriate magazines in checkout aisles.

Summarily, supermarkets know that customer loyalty is what keeps them in business. They need to be reminded that the profit lost from a regular customer over the period of a month far exceeds the profit made on the few monthly magazines that prompted the customer to shop elsewhere. Supermarkets would have to sell an additional 156 magazines per month to replace the profits made from a family of four who choose to buy groceries elsewhere.

ANSWERING COMMON OBJECTIONS

Objection: “We don’t want to be censors” or “It’s a First Amendment issue.”

Answer: The choice to carry magazines is not an issue of censorship. Using this fallacy, the manager would have to agree that by not carrying Playboy or Penthouse, he is a censor. It is a decision based on sales and profit margin. For private industry, the issue is responsibility.

The First Amendment guarantees the store freedom to choose what they will sell. Just as they choose to carry Star Kist Tuna rather than Bumble Bee brand, they can also choose which magazines to sell.

Besides, you’re not asking the store to remove the magazines; you simply want them displayed responsibly.

Objection: “We have no control. An outside company takes care of our magazine rack.”

Answer: Supermarkets can and do control what materials are sold in their store. Just as a store would not place Igloo Today in a Florida store, it should not place adult material in an area frequented by children.

Objection: “It’s a corporate policy. My hands are tied.”

Answer: See *Taking Out the Trash* (below).

Objection: “What you see on those magazines is no worse than what is on television.”

Answer: Parents can control what their children see on television. In the checkout aisle, there are no buttons to turn off, no parental controls. The only option available is to shop elsewhere.

Objection: “We have aisles that have no magazines. You can use those.”

Answer: Those aisles are not marked or may have longer lines. One of the selling points for supermarkets is convenience. Basically, the manager is asking you to go out of your way to shop in his store. He should be reminded that this is an issue of what is appropriate for all children – exposing children to sexually explicit covers has no place in

the family marketplace.

TAKING OUT THE TRASH

The following action steps can convince supermarkets to protect their customers from explicit and sexual content on checkout aisle magazine covers.

1. Ask to speak to the store manager. With magazine in hand, share your concern for families and children who are faced with such material. Ask to know the company's policy.
2. Ask the manager to remove the specific issue from the checkout aisle or place a blinder over it, leaving only the title exposed.
3. Ask for the company's corporate address. Write a letter to the president, sending a copy to the local store manager.
4. Start a phone tree, asking friends to call the local store manager.
5. Encourage others to contact the store. Distribute petitions asking the store to cover magazines with overt sexual content. Some national chains provide pre-addressed and postage paid comment cards. Distribute these to those who agree with your position.
6. Form a coalition of like-minded citizens. Address local groups such as bible clubs, ladies' groups and Sunday School classes for support. (You'll be surprised how many will join your efforts.)
7. Request a formal meeting with the manager. Ask local ministers or community leaders to attend. Politely warn the store that if they continue to display the magazines uncovered, you will make the issue public and will encourage other families to stop shopping at his store.
8. Write a letter to the editor of the local paper. This is a good tool for gaining support.
9. If all else fails, organize a peaceful picket of the store. Contact *AFA* for our brochure *Organizing an Effective Picket*.

American Family Association
P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803
662-844-5036, www.afa.net



Common Objections vs. The Truth About Pornography

I. It's a First Amendment Right.

1. The truth is:
 - a. All civilized nations have laws. Laws establish limits. Driving with blood alcohol over a certain limit is an example. Drug use is regulated. Speed limits and zoning laws are other examples. Legal constraints on conduct are the bases of most laws.
 - b. Hard core pornography is defined by law. Pornography laws are often not enforced, but the laws are there. There are federal laws that do not allow pornography to cross state lines. There are laws against child pornography and obscenity. There is material on the Internet and in book stores that violate our national obscenity laws.
 - c. Soft core pornography is anything that introduces sexual concepts to children. Soft core is defined by what you choose to allow in your community. This is called "Community Standard," and can change from one area to another.
 - d. It is not a First Amendment right to harm children by introducing them to sexual concepts.
 - e. Censorship? Stores choose what brand of beans they sell. Stores can choose what books or videos they sell. No one is forced to sell pornography of any kind.

II. It doesn't hurt anyone.

1. The truth is: it is harmful to the person involved, to others and to the community.
 - a. Exposure to pornography, compared with exposure to neutral material, leads males to perceive their own female mates as sexually less attractive (Pittsburgh Coalition Against Pornography 100 Ross Street, Lower Level, Pittsburgh, PA. 15219, 412-281-4565).
 - b. Exposure to standard pornography (people have consensual, nonviolent sex) results in a loss of compassion toward women in general.
 - c. Pornography often pairs violent, degrading, humiliating images with more ordinary sexual stimuli. By pairing the bad with acceptable sexual actions, people normalize what is unnatural.
 - d. Pornography can lead to sexual deviancy for disturbed and normal people alike. It is progressively addictive. (Ibid.)
 - e. Women who pose and/or dress provocatively exploit themselves and other women.
2. Harm to Others
 - a. A primary consumer group of pornography is adolescent boys ages 12-17. (Ibid.) Internet pornography can cause addiction in as short a time as 3 months and in some cases 2 weeks. (Dr. Rick Hawks, Ph.D., director, ldsmentalhealth.org)

- b. 87% of convicted molesters of girls and 77% of convicted molesters of boys admit to use of pornography, most often in the commission of their crimes. (Pittsburgh Coalition, op. cit.).
 - c. 865 rapists admitted to regular use of pornography, with 57% admitting actual imitation of pornography scenes in commission of sex crimes. (Ibid.)
 - d. In 42% of 48,000 sex crimes investigated in Michigan, police indicated that pornography was involved – used just prior to, or during the act of sexual assault. (Ibid.)
 - e. Children often abuse other children in the name of “play” after they have been exposed to pornography.
 - f. Husbands (wives) don’t treat their wives (husbands) as well. Intimacy is lost as well as respect.
 - g. 70% of the pornography sold is found by children.
 - h. Children share what they find with their friends.
 - i. Marriages break up. Welfare roles increase.
 - j. People don’t forget what they see even if it is accidental exposure in a store.
 - k. Husbands (wives) make demands for unnatural sex. The trouble is that pornography changes a person’s way of thinking, and so pornography users think unnatural sex is normal.
 - l. Indecency and exhibitionism is forced on others.
3. Hurts our Communities
- a. There have been 503 incidents of patrons accessing Internet pornography in public libraries, which include a molestation, several attempted molestations, and adults exposing children to pornography. Many incidents go unreported. (Ibid.)
 - b. In areas near sexually oriented business there are:
 - 1. Higher crime rates.
 - 2. Decreased property value.
 - 3. Prostitution on or near premises.
 - 4. Public sex, public urination.
 - 5. Exposure to offensive speech, material, performance. (Ibid.)
 - c. Pornography always escalates.



Pornography Harmless? You Be The Judge!

By being pornography free we would nearly eliminate sexual abuse and rape as well as strengthen families. Statistics show that 78% of the nation would have grocery store checkout lanes pornography free. (For more information call 801-295-7590 afternoons or evenings)

Areas of concern that we can do something about:

1. Schools
2. Libraries
3. Communities
4. Homes
5. City Ordinances
6. Public Awareness
7. Making businessmen/women aware of their responsibility.



You Can Do Something!

President Spencer W. Kimball, *Teachings*, p. 284

“Should people be free to infect society with obscene pictures and vulgar articles and flaunt corruption before children and others? Why should a few be granted freedom from restraint when many are fettered by the ugliness to which they are exposed?”

President Gordon B. Hinckley, LDSWorld-Gems@LDSWorld.com, Nov. 7, 2000

“Oh how we need in this day and time men and women who will stand up for decency and truth and honesty and virtue and law and order and all of the other good qualities on which our society is founded...Now, I want to say to you, and I say it with a plea in my heart, --get involved--. Get involved on the side of righteousness and truth and decency...God bless you to speak up for truth and decency...”

Southern Baptist Church, Resolution No. 4—adopted in 1986, Atlanta Georgia Convention

“That we encourage Southern Baptists to participate actively in legally permissible means of protest to dissuade retail outlets from selling pornographic materials.”

Seventh-day Adventist Church

“On the basis of eternal principles, Seventh-day Adventists of whatever culture deem pornography to be destructive, demeaning, desensitizing and exploitative.”

Jehovah Witness, “What Shapes Your Attitude?” *Awake!* June 8, 1997, p. 5

“Dr. Patrick Dixon in his book, *The Rising Price of Love*, states that he is convinced that teenagers who are exposed to a steady diet of pornography develop a distorted view of sexual behavior. They live out sexual fantasies and find real relationships both complicated and difficult. This leads to isolation and other problems, not the least of which is difficulty in forming lasting bonds of love.

Nationwide Catholic Bishop’s Statement, p. 6

“Pornography violates the respect due the body and robs sexual intimacy of its intrinsic meaning and purpose. In addition, those who produce pornography, who distribute it, or who view it are all gravely injured by the harm done to their human dignity. Whatever rationalizations may be used, each of these, in a different way, becomes degraded into an object trapped in a system for procuring illicit pleasure and profit. All are drawn into the illusion of a fantasy world.” (ef.CCC.235)

Elder David B. Haight, *Ensign*, Nov. 1984, pp. 70-73

“Actively approach the management of some stores, movie theaters, bookstores, television and radio stations, with a request to withdraw indecent materials.”



Be Informed! Get on one of these mailing lists:

American Family Association (AFA)

P.O. Drawer 2440

Tupelo, Mississippi 38803

601-844-5128

Fax: 601-690-8001

Email: outreach@afa.net

(Publications: “*What one person can do...*” and “*Fight Back Book*”.)

Focus On The Family

Colorado Springs, CO 609955-0350

James Dobson, Radio Talk Show

(I recommend *Citizen Magazine* that they publish as well as their newsletter.)

Enough is Enough

P.O. Box 30117

Santa Ana, CA 92705

703-278-8343

Fax: 703-278-8510

www.enough.org

(Newsletter and pamphlets available as well as good resources on the Internet.)

National Coalition for the Protection of Children & Families

800 Compton Road Suite 9224

Cincinnati OH 45231-9964

513-521-6227

Fax: 513-521-6337

www.nationalcoalition.org

(Great pamphlets and other resources online.)

Washington Watch

Family Research Council

801 G. Street N.W.

Washington D.C. 20001

202-393-2100

Fax: 202-393-2134

www.frc.org

(Informative on current national issues.)

Morality in Media

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 239

New York, NY 10115

212-870-3222

Fax: 212-670-2865

(Dr. Cline's Research)

ldsmentalhealth.org

An excellent source of information. Rick Hawks, Ph.D. is the director of the web site. He has organized Hidden Treasures Institute as a non-profit organization to give helpful information to families on a number of subjects.

To Strengthen the Family, book by JoAnn Hamilton

www.strengthenthefamily.net

Available at Deseret Book Co. and many other LDS bookstores or Envision Entertainment, 60 E. Center St. Suite #109, Logan UT, 84321,

www.envisionentertain.com

Non-denominational version is also available at Envision Entertainment.

