

*Women For Decency* will strive to protect children and families from the harmful effects of pornography by:

- Educating Utah communities about the harms and availability of pornography
- Encouraging family-friendly legislation
- Offering victim assistance resources for victims and individuals addicted to pornography

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## Protecting Children from Pornography

Many children are being exposed to inappropriate materials in our homes and communities. Parents, family members and business leaders must work together to protect children from the onslaught of sexual images. Early exposure to soft and hardcore pornography causes confusion about “human intimacy” and relationships. Children are not equipped to sort out the sexual messages our society promotes.

**PROTECT** our children using some of the ideas listed below to teach them from early on about their body and how to avoid pornography.

**Private areas** — From birth children are curious about the world around them including their own bodies. Teach children to do the following:

- Respect private areas of their bodies.
- Understand good touch and bad touch. (<http://www2.state.id.us/dhw/ecic/PC/GoodBadTouch.htm> or [www.goodtouchbadtouch.com](http://www.goodtouchbadtouch.com))
- Use anatomically correct names and discuss privacy issues only when a parent/guardian is present.

**Rid homes** — Parents need to evaluate all entertainment, TV programming, Internet usage and magazines available at home. When in doubt, throw it out. Statis-

tics show that “seventy percent of all pornographic magazines, videos, and computer files end up in the hands of children.” (Gina Holloway, *National Coalition For the Protection of Children & Families*)

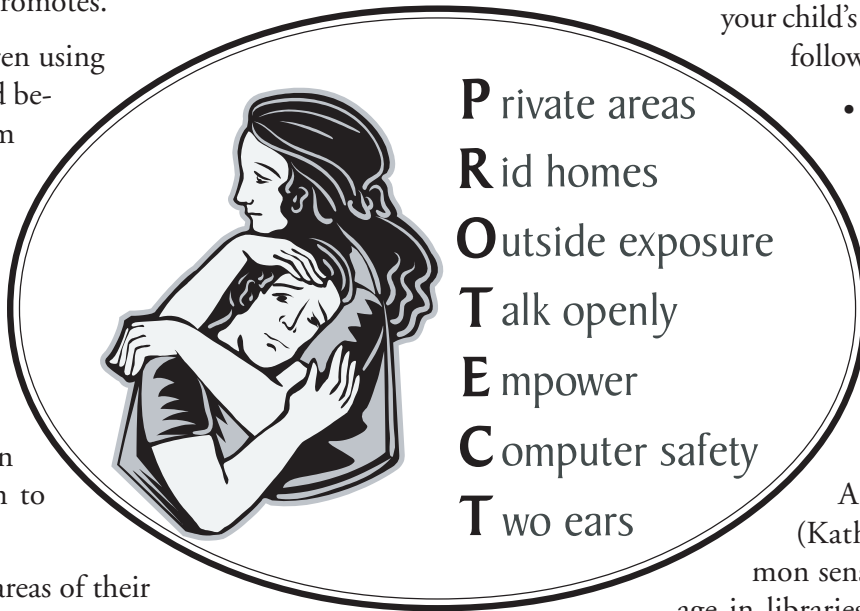
**Outside exposure** — Recognize that businesses, libraries, and friends’ homes are potential avenues for exposure to soft and hardcore pornography. Limit your child’s risk of exposure using the following steps:

**P** rivate areas  
**R** id homes  
**O** utside exposure  
**T** alk openly  
**E** mpower  
**C** omputer safety  
**T** wo ears

- Accompany children to the library and monitor library computer use. “The American Library Association is ignoring a ‘sea of evidence’ that ‘Internet pornography and related sex crimes are a serious problem in America’s libraries.’”

(Kathleen Parker, “It’s common sense to restrict Internet usage in libraries.” *The Orlando Sentinel online*)

- Patronize businesses who display products and advertisements responsibly. Early exposure to pornography often happens at a local grocery or department store.
- Become aware of your child’s friends and avoid sleepovers. (A. Lynn Scoresby, *Bringing up Moral Children in an Immoral World*, page 108)



## U.S. Supreme Court Supports Filters on Library Computers in July 2003 Ruling

A library is one of the great institutions of a civilized society. It is designed to educate, inform and entertain. Its purposes are noble; its results magnificent. Most of us think of a library as a safe haven for us and our children, a place that helps us obtain our aspirations. Few restrictions on learning are placed on library materials. The question arises, "Should there be any restrictions? Should filth and obscenity and degradation be allowed there in the name of free speech?" Keep in mind, we the people are paying for federal grants and local library expenses. Should only lowest desires be considered or should the rights of law abiding citizens be protected?

Women For Decency applauds the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) which requires the installation of anti-pornography filters in libraries to protect our children from smut merchants. This Supreme Court ruling applies only to children, since adults can request filters be turned off. Was the First Amendment really added to the Constitution to help the purveyors of pornography gain easy access to children's minds?

Women For Decency knows patrons and library boards understand hardcore and child pornography are not protected by the first amendment. The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling sends a message that filtering library computers is an important step in protecting children. How does the U.S. Supreme Court ruling affect Utah libraries? Most Utah libraries will

not be affected by the CIPA law because they do not depend on the federal funding that requires the installation of anti-pornography filters.

Women For Decency encourages state legislators to strengthen Utah law regarding library funding and filtering. Currently, Utah law requires libraries to have an Internet and online access policy and states that no state funds shall be provided to any public library that offers use of the Internet or an online service to the public unless the library adopts and enforces a policy to restrict access by minors to Internet or online sites that contain obscene material. (*HB 157 Enacted by Chapter 136, 2000 General Session*). While all Utah libraries have a protection policy, much pornography is still being accessed by minors at local libraries. What can citizens do to help?

Women For Decency encourages Utah citizens to become educated on their library Internet protection policies. Patrons can make a difference by calling and writing the library board or by attending a board meeting to request stricter policies, enforcement and filtering. While filtering can be expensive, the UEN (Utah Education Network) offers all Utah libraries free access to N2H2, a filtering product currently used in many Utah schools. Citizens must work to join hands with local libraries to restore the safe haven once provided at this noblest of institutions.

### Things you can do now!

1. Take action at your local library by—
  - Knowing the library internet protection policy and how it is enforced.
  - Writing or calling the library board in support of filtering.
  - Organizing a group of local patrons to attend a library board meeting to voice your concerns.
2. Thank and patronize Walmart for no longer carrying Maxim, Stuff and FME. Target, Fred Meyer, Kmart, and Shopko continue to carry these magazines. All but Shopko have the magazines placed
3. Set aside time to develop a family plan to protect all members from pornography and discuss the plan together. If you are not part of the solution, your family may become part of the problem.

out of the reach of children. Shopko places these magazines uncovered at children's eye level. You can help by—

- Speaking with the team leader at your Shopko store.
- Calling the regional manager to voice your concern (801) 261-4173.
- Gathering all copies and asking the front desk to keep these magazines out of the reach of children.

## PROTECT from page 1

**Talk openly** — Communicate often by using the following practices:

- Answer children's questions about the human body.
- Build trust so children will feel safe about sharing their experiences and fears.
- Discuss the dangers of pornography. (*TIPS AND TALKING POINTS—An Age-Appropriate Guide Book for Discussing The Harms of Pornography With Your Family*, \$1.00 ncpfcf@eos.net, (513) 521-6227, www.nationalcoalition.com)
- Confront a child looking at pornography. Remove materials, listen to the child and teach solutions.

**Empower** — Role play and empower children to "NO, GO and TELL."

- Say "NO" to adults or others making inappropriate requests.
- GO away from any situation that feels uncomfortable.
- TELL a trusted adult if someone touches private parts or shows inappropriate material.

**Computer safety** — Computers pose the biggest danger for viewing pornography. Make time to do the following:

- Set family rules for Internet usage including time of day, length of time, appropriate sites, and what personal information is safe to share online. "Never before in the history of telecommunications media in the United States has so much indecent (and obscene) material been so easily accessible by so many minors in so many American homes with so few restrictions." (U.S. Department of Justice, *Post Hearing Memorandum of Points and Authorities*)
- Purchase a filter. Good filters block around 85 percent of harmful material. (See www.filterreview.com or www.contentwatch.com)
- Keep the family computer in a high-traffic area of the home. Also, keep computers out of bedrooms.
- Practice Internet safety with children (www.isafe.net or www.netsmartz.org)

**Two ears** — It is said that the reason for two ears and one mouth is so we will listen twice as much as we talk. Parents should:

- Avoid over reacting when abuse or pornography exposure is discovered or disclosed by a child.
- Take children seriously if they speak of abuse or exposure to pornography.
- Show appreciation for the child's openness.

## WFD Conference Tapes/CDs available

On May 14, 2003, Women For Decency held the first "Protecting Children and Families—From a Woman's Perspective" conference. If you were unable to attend this event, audio CDs or videos are available. Contact Harold Skousen at P.O. Box 298 Riverton, UT, 84065, call toll free 866-254-2057, fax 801-254-6800, or email at usa@ut.net.

Many small people in many small places  
doing many small things can alter the  
face of the earth.

—Written on the ruins of the Berlin Wall

## 2003 "PROTECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM PORNOGRAPHY" CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 1, 2003 • Salt Lake Convention Center

This day long conference includes all sessions, lunch and materials. Registration is \$25.00 per person. For more information contact Rory Reid at 801-688-7717.

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