



Mission Statement

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

P.O. Box 900883 • Salt Lake City, UT 84090 • Hotline 801.564.1351

Women For Decency Newsletter

www.wfdutah.org

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Create a Family Decency Standard

Have you ever trusted a movie rating to pick a decent movie, only to be shocked by what it contained? Ratings generated by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), gaming and music labels, TV ratings, and the Supreme Court's "Miller Test" all attempt to define what is and what is not decent. Certainly any meaningful endeavor to protect individuals and families from indecent entertainment must begin with a working definition of what is and what is not decent, but can we depend on the current rating systems to protect our families?

Unfortunately, in the present environment we simply cannot rely on these inadequate gauges of appropriateness. In this world of slouching values, who will step up to define an acceptable standard of decency? Recent research done on behalf of *Women For Decency* suggests decency standards must originate in families and communities.

Creating a family decency standard is one way to empower individuals to make informed entertainment choices. The following method of discussing decency standards works well for adults and children ages 11 and older. Look for upcoming

newsletter articles on how to discuss decency issues with smaller children.

Preparatory Steps:

- Familiarize yourself with the MPAA rating system and other public sources on decency standards.
- Set up two one-hour family meetings to discuss family decency standards.
- Obtain movie reviews on several current movies from moviemom.com and screenit.com.

Ground Rules and Intent:

- Parents should act primarily as facilitators whose job will be to listen and learn what decency means in their family and to carefully guide the discussion toward the desired end.
- All topics related to entertainment and what the family views are open for discussion.
- Write down key points that will assist in creating a family decency standard.

See Family Decency, page 2

Women For Decency Women's Conference

Women For Decency is pleased to announce a conference like no other. It is the first event of its kind, and will be an event no woman will want to miss. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 14 from 6-9 pm.

We will meet at the Downtown Marriott Hotel, 75 South West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. You will be treated to a sweet dessert as you listen to three speakers addressing issues surrounding pornography specifically from a woman's perspective.

Dr. Jeff Robinson will give suggestions on how to assist a spouse or son in getting help with a pornography problem. Many men have difficulty realizing this situation may be out of their control. Dr. Robinson has counseled a number of addicts and has some great practical suggestions.

Lilly Anderson is also a well known therapist addressing how to set healthy boundaries in a relationship dealing in addictions. She will also discuss safe harbors for wives where help can be found.

JoAnn Hibbert Hamilton is a popular speaker on the subject of pornography and children. She will focus on safeguards for protecting the home front.

To register for this outstanding event, please call the *Women For Decency* hotline at (801) 564-1351, register online at www.mentalhealthpublications.com, or send \$10 with your name and phone number to *Women For Decency*, P. O. Box 900883, Salt Lake City, UT 84090.

United we stand; divided we fall. Please come and bring a friend on May 14 and unite with the women of Utah. We can conquer what we fear!

Women For Decency County Petitions

Women For Decency is beginning a project in each county of Utah to increase awareness of the Utah Indecent Display law among businesses and citizens. Attached is a petition for this project. Please copy and circulate it among neighbors, friends and family, then send the completed petitions by May 31, 2003 to :

P.O. Box 900883

Salt Lake City, UT 84093 .

These petitions will be presented to county prosecutors to show citizen support for upholding the Utah Indecent Display law. *Women For Decency* is requesting a letter from each county attorney in of support of prosecuting businesses which violate this Utah law. The petitions, county attorney letter and copies of the Utah law will then be sent to every business in each county of the state. This ground work further facilitates creating “family-friendly” business and higher community standards for all of Utah.

Family Decency, from page 1

MEETING ONE — Creating a Meaningful Framework

- Review the ground rules and intent of the session.
- Review the MPAA rating system and other definitions of decency. Allow family members to comment on how these frameworks help or do not help your family. For instance, is a PG or PG-13 movie rating an adequate measure of appropriateness for your family?
- Brainstorm a list of what is sacred to your family. Examples may include God, our bodies, marriage, and human life.
- Translate your list of what is sacred into a watch list of ways in which offensive content is woven into entertainment. This list may include violence or taking human life, lifestyles with no respect for a moral code, use of profanity-laden dialogue, portrayals of inappropriate sexual relationships whether or not those portrayals are explicit or implied.
- Create a guiding framework for seeking decent forms of entertainment. Your family may conclude that you will replace the MPAA rating system with 3 to 4 simple questions about movie and entertainment content. For example, does the movie portray inappropriate sexual relationships—even if those portrayals do not include explicit images? Does the movie include violence against humans? Does the movie include excessive profanity?

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”
—Ghandi

MEETING TWO — Creating a Family Standard of Decency

- Review the framework notes from the first meeting. Discuss other sources of information on movie content such as current movie reviews from moviemom.com and screenit.com.
- Explore point by point the content from current movie reviews. Do these movies violate what is sacred in your family? Do they fit your framework of what is decent or indecent? Should your family view these movies? *Movie reviews may contain explicit information generating a mature but necessary family discussion.*
- Finalize a list of more specific definitions of what is and is not appropriate content for your family. For example: We will not watch explicit images (violent or sexual) that offend our family’s definition of what is sacred. We will not watch thematic or interpretive indecency that presents “evil as good” and “good as evil.” We will not watch movies with profanity or actions that run contrary to or offend our sense of what is sacred.
- Examine your library of DVDs, movies, and other forms of home entertainment. Agree to discard entertainment that violates your new family decency standard.
- Commit your family to using moviemom.com, screenit.com, or like information sources for reviewing content prior to viewing or purchasing home entertainment.

Generating a decency-driven society begins at home. Citizens can then educate, patronize and effect change in businesses, libraries, schools, and public places in the communities in which they reside.

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Alarming Facts

70% of teenagers (ages 15-17) have accidentally come across pornography on the Web and 57% of those teenagers believe being exposed to pornography will have serious impact on kids under 18. (Kaiser Family Foundation Survey 2001)

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that child pornographers will do \$5 billion to \$7 billion in business over the next five years. ("Family of kidnap victim Elizabeth Smart supports the PROTECT Act", PC World Communications, October 2, 2002)

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)

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"I am only one. But, still I am one. I cannot do everything. But, still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

—Edward Everett Hale