

FCC complaint against offensive television and radio broadcasting

Most states have laws prohibiting distribution of sexually obscene material in printed or electronic form. Sexually explicit material on television or the internet is illegal in most states! You may review your states obscenity laws at www.moralityinmedia.org, your library, or law enforcement office. Indecent, profane, and violent material is also prohibited by the Federal Communications Commission in all atmospheric electronic broadcasting. The FCC operates at the order of your elected Congress person, and its content rules are outlined below.

Obscene broadcasts are prohibited at all times. Obscenity is not protected by the first amendment and cannot ever be broadcast. The U.S. supreme court has established that content is obscene if it meets three criteria:

1. An average person, applying contemporary community standards, must find that the material, as a whole appeals to the prurient or lewd interest;
2. The material must depict or describe, in an offensive way, sexual conduct defined by applicable law; (state, federal, local obscenity law)
3. The material taken as a whole, must lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

Indecent broadcasts are allowed by the FCC between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am only. The FCC defines indecency as “language or material that offensively describes or depicts, sexual or excretory organs or activities, as measured by contemporary community standards”. It is offensive material not reaching the level of obscenity. Violence standards are less defined but also regulated by the FCC. Cable television broadcasters are not subject to indecency standards, they are required to show a rating symbol on screen for the first 15 seconds of each program. This is how your “V” chip identifies violent or indecent programs. By law, lock boxes are available from your cable broadcaster which locks out selected channels. Cable or dial up internet is not currently subject to indecency regulation.

Profane broadcasts are allowed by the FCC between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am; defined as “language so grossly offensive, as to be a nuisance”.

Television – would you let a stranger into your home to show your children sexually explicit photos, to tell disrespectful, irreverent, and violent stories; to challenge your families beliefs and values? Would you let him talk for hours, and again the next day? Cut your cable, use your “V” chip, store the DVD’s, get a “lockbox”, write the FCC.

Last week of January is PPTAW (pre-pornography turn around week) !!!
Turn around promiscuous media covers found in magazine, book, and movie racks, in grocery stores and book stores.

*** The FCC fined 111 CBS stations \$32,500 each for broadcasting a January 2005 episode of “Without a trace”, containing a teenage orgy scene. The FCC judged the volume of complaints to be an indication that community standards of decency had been violated. In June 2006, Congress raised the maximum indecency fine 10 fold to \$325,000 per offense, per station.

*** In 1988 President Reagan signed into law a bill banning indecent broadcasting 24 hours a day. In 1990 a District of Columbia court overturned the law. Courts often strike down indecency bans, citizens are left with “parental options” such as time windows, and “V” chips.

The denigration of morality is lead, reflected, and reinforced by obscene, indecent, and profane broadcasting. An individual’s moral reasoning is formed in part by the standards of his society. What we consent to, forms and reinforces who we are, and who our children become. Society has a legitimate interest in prohibiting grossly immoral acts. Pornography forms the next generation of child molesters; violent video games cultivates gangs; immodest fashions incite sexual promiscuity and teen pregnancy.

Anyone can cultivate a taste for pornography, drugs, violence. It is our moral reasoning, not our emotions that tell us these things are wrong. Pornography is an expected progression of immodest images found everywhere...breasts and bottoms offered at supermarket magazine racks; by action, sports, and romance movies. **Pre-pornography** used to be considered pornography, but is now the “contemporary community standard”, used in the legal definition of pornography. Rolling back pre-pornography, will roll back pornography.

Profanity is not the language of constructive criticism, and provokes rather than resolves problems. Profanity uses animalistic expression for its shock effect, when we are no longer shocked by it...what have we become?

Indecency turns legitimate parts of human life into profanity.

Obscenity is little better than prostitution – sex sold and bought.

Graphic violence... within a few years, the old has become the “community standard”. With no merit other than excitement, the media must step “community standard” violence to the next level to sell it as entertainment. Our entertainment is really a statement of who we are.

Complete the back of this form and mail it to the FCC to register a complaint. The FCC website is www.fcc.gov. Find federal and state elected officials at www.FirstGov.gov. Find legal information and more at www.moralityinmedia.org, www.cwfa.org, www.parentstv.org. Copyright © 2006, St. Joseph House Publishing, www.freecatechism.com. Permission granted to reproduce this document.

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To: _____

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street
Washington DC, 20554

The FCC is directed by five commissioners; current commissioners are: Kevin Martin (Chairman), Deborah Tate, Michael Copps, Jonathan Adelstein, Robert McDowell.

From: _____

Dear Commissioner ,

I witnessed a broadcast, which I believe violated FCC standards as detailed below. Please investigate, and inform me of your findings. Thank you.

Today's date _____

Date and time of offense _____

Type of offense: (circle one) Obscenity Indecency Profanity Violence Other

Network broadcasting offensive content _____

Channel, call sign, or frequency of offending broadcaster _____

City and state of received broadcast _____

Name of program, song, commentator, etc. _____

(include recording of program if possible)

Detailed description of offensive content _____
