



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Southern District of Iowa

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September 15, 2003

Sandy Rios  
Janet M. LaRue  
Concerned Women for America  
1015 Fifteenth St., N.W.  
Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Rios and Ms. LaRue:

I am in receipt of your letter dated April 30, 2003, regarding complaints about online obscenity. Consistent with the Attorney General's direction, this office is committed to the prosecution of offenses relating to sexual exploitation of minors, child pornography, and obscenity.

Due to ethical and policy constraints, we are not able to comment on investigations that are pending in the Southern District of Iowa. With respect to complaints forwarded to this office by Morality In Media, however, please note that this district does not necessarily have venue over any or all of such complaints. According to Department of Justice policy concerning child pornography and obscenity offenses committed by use of computer, charges generally should be brought in the district in which the target and his computer are located, and multiple prosecutions are discouraged. Thus, although a computer user in Southern Iowa may access a computer site that displays obscene material or receive obscene "spam" via computer, the offending source of the obscene material and the offender's computer may well reside in another judicial district.

Thank you for your inquiry and for your commitment to this important area of law enforcement.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Colloton  
United States Attorney

SMC/vq