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U. S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Northern District of Illinois

Dirksen Federal Building
219 South Dearborn Street, 5th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604

May 8, 2003

Sandy Rios
President
Concerned Women for America
1015 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Obscenity Complaints

Dear Ms. Rios:

We have received CWA's inquiry about the status of pornography complaints from residents of our District sent to our office and the F.B.I. through the Morality in Media website.

In the past several years, we have prosecuted criminally many cases involving obscenity, particularly child pornography on the internet. Because of our limited resources and other prosecutorial priorities, in the area of obscenity, this office has traditionally given priority to cases involving child pornography because of the special seriousness of those cases, including the harm to children who are abused to create child pornography and the frequent overlap between collectors of child pornography and active abusers of children. We have several Assistant U.S. Attorneys on our staff who have expertise in investigating and prosecuting child pornography cases, and who are active in the nation-wide efforts against child pornography. On the civil side, our office works closely with the U.S. Customs Service in seizing pornographic materials sent to the United States from abroad.

We appreciate the concerns that you have raised regarding the wide availability of obscene materials on the internet, and we will continue to enforce obscenity laws in appropriate cases, with a continued emphasis on child pornography.

Very truly yours,

Patrick J. Fitzgerald
United States Attorney

By: Nancy K. Needles
Executive Assistant United
States Attorney