

June 10, 2009

The following is Mary Ann Kuharski's response to Carlson Corporation's position regarding its franchised hotels offering "pay-per-view" pornography in hotel guest rooms:

Carlson Company's decision to "look the other way" on an issue such as pornography, which is a direct assault on marriage, fidelity and family, is disappointing and quite frankly shocking.

Carlson Corporation takes the position that its franchised hotels "make their own decisions on the overall in-room entertainment service and programming offered at their hotels. Carlson Hotels Worldwide does not encourage or require the hotels to carry adult themed channels."

First of all, companies offering a franchise of their business set down all sorts of rules and regulations that must be complied with, i.e. cleanliness, lighting, signage, advertising, etc. Prohibiting Pornography on its hotel premises could easily be added to its franchise contracts.

After all, this is an issue that strikes at the core of family values. Let us be clear, XXX pornography denigrates women, portraying them in lewd and even violent acts - including forced rape. This "entertainment" should never be considered or confused with "adult" movies.

Worse, the availability of porn on hotel premises offers a very real threat and risk to other patrons - especially those with small children. Most police departments will attest to the fact that pornography is often linked to those who commit violent and criminal sexual acts.

This should be a "no brainer" for a reputable hotel chain such as Carlson Corporation and their Radisson and Country Inn & Suites franchises, which should prefer to offer a "family friendly" environment, rather than one that may be a very real risk or threat.

In other words, I don't buy the Carlson Company "cop out" and if you agree, I hope you contact Carlson Corporation - or send them my response.

Thank you again and God bless you,

Mary Ann Kuharski

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