

Pornography and Crime:
Reporting the presence of pornography connected to crime

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I am submitting written testimony in support of SB 92, the reporting of pornographic materials during the investigation of sexual crimes. There are many reasons why this is an important bill and why this bill can help solve the kinds of psychological and criminal problems that I have treated in my therapy practice everyday for the last 28 years.

I specialize in the treatment of sexual violence victims and perpetrators. I had been doing this work for more than 10 years before I realized that I had not treated one case of sexual violence that did not include pornography. The types of cases that I treat are varied and differ in many important ways. Sexual harassment cases are different from rape cases which are different from incest cases. However, they all involved pornography.

Most people understand intuitively or from looking at research or clinical experience that there is a connection between using child pornography and the behavior of child rape. The images in child pornography are Permission-Giving for sexual behavior between adults and children. Child rapists tell me they "know" that kids like to have sex with adults because they have seen their smiling faces in the child pornography they access on the Internet.

The same people who understand this connection between child pornography and child rape may forget that adult pornography is Permission-Giving as well: for adult rape, for combining sex with violence, for the message that when women say no they mean yes, for male sexual entitlement to have sex with whomever they want, whenever they want, however they want, for the message in pornography is that male sexuality is viciously narcissistic, predatory and out of control and that female sexuality is insatiable and indiscriminant. Pornography is hate speech against men and women and is mis-education about sexuality. It is also Permission-Giving for psychological pathology and crime.

The crimes that are connected to these Permission-Giving Beliefs which are spread in pornography are not just incest and child rape. They are adult rape, sexual harassment, adult and child prostitution, adult and child sex trafficking and domestic violence combined with sexual assault. All of these connections with pornography have been found in both clinical experience and in research.

