

# Petition to Owners/Managers of family-oriented stores: Put sexualized magazine covers behind blinder racks

Manager's/Owner's name (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Store (chain) name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Popular culture is awash with offensive and harmful sexual imagery. It's on TV and the Internet. It's in mainstream films, music and rap videos, and video and computer games. It's also on the front covers of magazines openly displayed in your store(s) at the checkout counter(s) [and][or] at other locations.

Particularly at your checkout line(s), this imagery cannot be avoided. When customers, including mothers with young children and children unaccompanied by parents, pay for purchases, they have no choice. They are a captive audience that must pass through a gauntlet of magazine covers promoting sex acts, gossiping about the private lives of celebrities, sending the message that what is important in life is skin-deep and often artificially induced physical beauty, and at times displaying nudity.

This bombardment of sexual imagery is taking a toll on our nation's children and is contributing to the breakdown of the family, with devastating consequences.

In many communities retail stores must comply with state or local "harmful to minors" display laws, but this is the beginning of their responsibility, not the end of it. Would you feel comfortable requiring children who visit your home to pass through a gantlet of the same magazines now displayed at your checkouts? If you wouldn't – or if the children's parents wouldn't – you need to change your stores' display policy.

Family-oriented stores can't force exploitative magazines to be responsible, but they can refuse to allow their stores to be used for the open display of indecent and other offensive and harmful sexual imagery. Respect for community standards of decency and concern for the wellbeing of children require nothing less.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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