

May 21, 2012

Jeff Blake, Vice Chairman
Sony Pictures Entertainment
Chairman, Columbia TriStar Motion Picture Group,
Worldwide Marketing and Distribution
10202 West Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

Dear Mr. Blake,

After reading numerous media stories about the content of Columbia Pictures new movie “That’s My Boy,” we are very concerned that that this picture makes light of statutory rape in its depiction of a thirteen-year old boy’s sexual relationship with his teacher at school. The mission of our organizations is to prevent child abuse and neglect of any type before it ever occurs. This mission is helped when we engage individuals, organizations and “institutions” to recognize a collective responsibility to ensure our nation’s children have an opportunity for healthy child development.

One such responsibility is to ensure that the portrayal of abuse is not treated with humor. “That’s My Boy” has crossed this line and indicates that there is some confusion about the appropriate response to the idea that a thirteen-year old boy is in a sexual relationship with an adult authority figure. This is rape, plain and simple, and the idea that it would be portrayed as titillating or cool is an antiquated understanding of sexual abuse and healthy child development. This confusion must be eliminated through deliberate actions by responsible adults who share a common vision that all children have the right to a happy and abuse-free childhood.

We believe the controversy around this movie and how you choose to handle it, however, provides us with an opportunity to join forces, advance this cause and further educate the public that we not only all play a role in children’s lives, but that all adults are responsible for the prevention of child sexual abuse. Given this, we would like to propose that our respective organizations partner to:

- Provide sexual abuse prevention training to your creative and marketing staff members;
- Create a series of public service announcements that (1) provide parents and communities with vital sexual abuse prevention information and tips and (2) advocate for public policies that support sexual abuse prevention programming; and/or
- Visit the websites of the three signers of this letter for the FAQ’s.

We believe that together we have the chance to make a meaningful impact in the lives of children. We will follow-up in the near future to explore the ways in which we may accomplish this. In the meantime, feel free to contact James M. Hmurovich, President & CEO, Prevent Child Abuse America, at (312) 663-3520, extension 810.

Sincerely,

Prevent Child Abuse America

Stop It Now!

Darkness to Light

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Mission Statement

To prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation’s children.



About Prevent Child Abuse America

Prevent Child Abuse America, founded in 1972 in Chicago, works to ensure the healthy development of children nationwide. The organization promotes that vision through a network of chapters in 49 states and over 400 Healthy Families America, home visitation sites in 37 states, the Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and Canada. A major organizational focus is to advocate for the existence of a national policy framework and strategy for children and families while promoting evidence-based practices that prevent abuse and neglect from ever occurring. To learn more about what we're doing to prevent child abuse and neglect and how you can help, please visit our websites, preventchildabuse.org and healthyfamiliesamerica.org.

About Stop It Now!

Stop It Now! ® prevents the sexual abuse of children by mobilizing adults, families and communities to take actions that protect children before they are harmed. We provide support, information and resources so individuals and families around the world can keep children safe and create healthier communities. Read more at StopItNow.org

About Darkness to Light

Darkness to Light is a national non-profit organization with the mission to empower people to prevent child sexual abuse. We do this by increasing public awareness of the issue, educating adults to prevent, recognize the signs and react responsibly to child sexual abuse, and by engaging communities in building and sustaining child sexual abuse prevention initiatives. Learn more at D2L.org.



DARKNESS to LIGHT