

# Criminal Law News

online

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# **No sex please. The blocking of internet pornography**

**By Sally Ramage**

There is no one set of laws that apply to the distribution, purchase, or possession of Internet pornography. From July 2009, all personal computers sold in China were going to have software installed to block online pornography. However, China's prohibition may not prevent access to pornographic website, because the hosting server may relocate its business to another country that does not prohibit pornography. Nevertheless, after much protest, China announced a temporary cancellation of its porn-blocking plans.

## **How is pornography placed on the internet?**

The internet porn industry uses many strategies to promote their websites. Some of these include 'pop-up windows' which show porn. Also, some porn websites may hijack a computer and change the user's default home page to a persistent porn page. Some porn sites place hidden key words in the code of their websites and this is then picked up by search engines' web-crawlers.

## **The dangers of pornography online**

Some of the dangers of viewing pornography online especially, are that the computer user can become a sex addict and in turn sex addicts often turn to the Internet as a new and safe sexual outlet to fulfil their underlying compulsive habit, often leading to the user then proceeding to find someone in a 'chat website' for online infidelity in their marriage, for instance, and this is a real problem which can endanger the person's real partnership. ...

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