

LEGISLATORS ARE LITERALLY TALKING ABOUT BRINGING CHARGES AGAINST LIBRARIANS, AUTHORS, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OR "ANY INDIVIDUAL" (Grandparents? Siblings? Booksellers?) WHO HANDS "CRIMINAL PORN" TO TEENS

Legislators are increasingly using the term "criminal porn" to describe books banned under the so-called "bright line" rule of the Sensitive Materials in School law.

In the [November Interim Ed. Committee meeting](#) legislators Carol Moss and Angela Romero asked their colleagues what they meant by "criminal porn" and whether the Sensitive Materials law could be used to charge librarians and authors.

In response, Michael Curtis, Legislative Counsel confirmed that librarians (and authors) are in jeopardy.

[see timestamp 34:50-37:20: <https://le.utah.gov/MtgMinutes/publicMeetingMinutes.jsp...>]

- **Rep. Moss asked, "Who's going to be charged criminally? Does that mean the author can be charged criminally?"** Legislative Counsel Michael Curtis answers, "These definitions all come from the criminal code, so when we're talking about pornographic or indecent materials in these various sections...they are all criminal code definitions. These sections are about displaying or distributing pornography to a minor. **So the individual who hands pornography to a minor, provides access to a minor could be subject to criminal penalties"**
- **Rep. Angela Romero asks: "If a librarian hands a book or allows a book to be checked out and it's stated as criminal porn, what happens after that?"** Michael Curtis answers, "On the criminal law enforcement side, there's prosecutorial discretion [inaudible] to what charges they bring. I think it's just important to recognize that we are talking about criminal provisions here, **so really regardless of whether the board takes a vote and determines that something is not, doesn't violate these pornography standards that doesn't foreclose the possibility that a prosecutor could bring charges against someone."**

Furthermore... [as reported in June 14. Deseret News Article](#)]

- Sen. John Johnson, R-North Ogden, said the decision of a district-appointed book review committee to retain 'The Freedom Writers Diary' by Erin Gruwell, which some lawmakers say violates 'bright line' provisions of state law, **could render district officials "accessory to distribution of pornography"** to minors."

SO WHAT BOOKS ARE "CRIMINAL PORN?"

[see [books banned under "bright line" in Utah" spreadsheet](#) - based on public reporting. USBE is compiling official list by August 1, 2024]

Any book that violates the so-called "Bright Line" rule of the "Sensitive Materials" law that was enacted in 2022 are considered "criminal porn." Here are a few examples of the books and authors that could now lead to the criminal charging of librarians, teachers, authors, or

ANYONE that provides access to these books (all banned from schools under the "bright line rule" according to [Salt Lake Tribune reporting](#))

- The Handmaid's Tale (Margaret Atwood)
 - Slaughterhouse Five (Kurt Vonnegut)
 - Bluest Eye (Toni Morrison)
 - Forever (Judy Blume)
 - Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (Sherman Alexie)
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An Incomplete List of Books Banned under Bright Line violation

(source: [SL Trib Database](#)) [see [books banned under "bright line" in Utah" spreadsheet](#) - based on public reporting. USBE is compiling official list by August 1, 2024]

All of these books have been classified as "criminal porn" and it was stated by Michael Curtis (Legislative Counsel) in November 2024 Interim Ed. Committee that authors and librarians or anyone that hands a book or provides access to teens can be criminally charged. [[see comments and link to video above](#)]

- The Handmaid's Tale
- Slaughterhouse five
- Bluest Eye
- Forever
- Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
- The Freedom Writers Diary
- Thirteen Reasons Why
- The Perks of Being a Wallflower
- This Book is Gay
- The Haters
- Sold
- Shine (teen investigating hate crime)
- Out of Darkness
- Push
- Nineteen Minutes
- Milk and Honey
- Lucky (memoir)
- Looking for Alaska
- I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter
- Homegoing
- Twisted (laurie halse anderson)
- Deogratias: A Tale of Rwanda
- All Boys Aren't Blue