

# KCR Policy: Profanity Rating (Draft 2)

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This policy provides profanity ratings for word use and subject matter for topics of interest to KCR programmers and listeners. It is revised from time to time and therefore the reader should confirm that she is reading the most recent version.

When present, profanity is generally expected to be a part of pre-recorded music/ prose or live music/ prose read or performed by the programmers or his/her guests – it should only be part of the programmer's spontaneous narrative if the purpose behind the program specifically requires the use of profanity.

Language is dynamic. Words which are appropriate one year are inappropriate the next. Words which are appropriate in one context are inappropriate in another. The ratings provided in this policy when interpreted in conjunction with the *On-Air Profanity Policy* should help improve programmers understanding of words which may be deemed profane by members of the listening audience.

## 1.1 Definitions

<b>Family</b>	Listeners which include at least one child-
<b>Child</b>	An individual under 13 years of age.
<b>Profanity</b>	Language – both slang and normative – and including innuendos, considered offensive or potentially offensive to a significant portion of the KCR listening audience. Includes many non-clinical words and meanings related to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excretory functions and organs involving excrement or urination,</li><li>• violent acts,</li><li>• non-clinical description of sexual acts and sexual organs,</li><li>• harmful stereotyping, and</li><li>• hateful or derogatory statements.</li></ul>
<b>Profanity Rating</b>	Profanity severity in terms of social norms. Profanity ratings are expressed as profanity types and are used to guide establishment of time-of-day restrictions. They are defined in a companion policy entitled <i>Profanity Rating Policy</i> .
<b>Profane</b>	That which contains profanity.
<b>Prog. Material</b>	All material in program. Includes comments of interviewees and phone-in content.
<b>Type 1 Profanity</b>	Words and meanings which are commonly heard by children but many parents consider unacceptable.
<b>Type 2 Profanity</b>	Words and meanings which are commonly heard in everyday language, but which some listeners would consider objectionable.
<b>Type 3 Profanity</b>	Words and meanings which most adults would consider offensive, unless used in an educational context.

## 1.2 Related Policies and Procedures

*On-Air Profanity Policy*

## 2.0 PROFANITY RATINGS FOR SPECIFIC WORDS AND MEANINGS

This section provides examples of profanity at three levels. These examples are intended to guide the programmer in identifying the sort of words/meanings that are intended at each level. If there is any doubt about the profanity type for a word or meaning not listed, the programmer should consult the Programming Coordinator or the Operations Manager.

## 2.1 Examples of Type 1 Profanity

The following table provides some examples of type 1 profanity.

Type	Specific Examples
Words	ass, shit, crap, piss, stoned (and pot - and other euphemisms for marijuana and other drugs)
Subjects	Strong sexual innuendo. Minor/brief mention of defecation or copulation. Drugs and alcohol abuse. Non-educational reference to drugs.

## 2.2 Examples of Type 2 Profanity

The following table provides some examples of level 2 profanity.

Type	Specific Examples
Words	fuck, tit, bastard, prick, whore, balls, bloody, bitch,
Subjects	Specific sexual acts: oral sex, anal sex Detailed description of defecation, urination, or copulation

## 2.3 Examples of Type 3 Profanity

The following table provides some examples of type 3 profanity.

Type	Specific Examples
Words	cock, pussy, cunt, beaver, dick, motherfucker, cocksucker nigger, fag, dyke (when used hatefully or prejudicially).
Subjects	graphic description of violent acts graphic description of violent imagery: conditions of death or wounds inflicted through strangulation, shooting, stabbing, bombs, etc.

## 3.0 EXCEPTIONS TO THE RATINGS OF WORDS

There are instances where individual words, when used in a specific context, are not considered profane (at any level). These exceptions are restricted to the following:

### 3.1 Words Implying Prejudice toward Identifiable Groups

*Nigger, fag, dyke and other pejorative words which generally identify and put down an identifiable group*

If originated by a member of the identifiable group, and if used in support of reducing the prejudice toward that group, then these words are not considered profane. In these instance, it is still necessary for their use to be consistent with the program objectives and justification should be provided to the Operations Manager or Programming Coordinator in advance of the material being aired.

### 3.2 Words with Other (Non-profane) Normative Meanings

Some rated words also carry non-profane meanings - eg, the use of "bitch" in reference to a female dog. In these cases, the word is exempt from the considerations of profanity. Programmers must use their own discretion in identifying such words and should be prepared to justify their use to the Programming Coordinator or Operations Manager, if asked. Note, however, that some words (eg, fuck) are never exempt as they carry no non-profane meaning.

*The first version of this policy was made official on February xx, 2003.*