

Matthew West
***** Avenue
Portland, OR *****

Sheryl Sandberg
Chief Operating Officer
156 University Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301-1605

January 8, 2009

Dear Ms. Sandberg,

As you may have seen in the recent media coverage, Facebook has been systematically removing pictures of women breastfeeding their children due to the classification of the photos being “obscene.” Some of these photos removed were those of my daughters and wife. Considering some of the other photos I see on Facebook on a regular basis (under-age drinking, promiscuous activities, and drug use,) I am highly offended and hurt that Facebook considers photos of my family conducting a natural process obscene.

Merriam-Webster defines obscene as:

1: disgusting to the senses: REPULSIVE

2 a: abhorrent to morality or virtue; specifically : designed to incite to lust or depravity **b:** containing or being language regarded as taboo in polite usage **c:** repulsive by reason of crass disregard of moral or ethical principles **d:** so excessive as to be offensive

Considering that breastfeeding has been an activity of humans since the beginning of our existence, I don’t understand how it fits in to the above definition at all. Granted, some may consider an exposed breast and baby’s head as not modest, it is most definitely not obscene.

As a long time member of Facebook, a husband, and father of two beautiful girls, I would appreciate a letter of apology to me and my family for your company’s inappropriate actions. As well, please consider reviewing your process for managing your obscenity claim system. It doesn’t seem to be effective.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew West

PS – Attached are some photos of my wife, Jennifer, and two daughters, Olivia and Hazel.

