

## **CSDMS STATEMENT ON ULTRASOUND FOR ENTERTAINMENT:**

The Board of Directors of the C.S.D.M.S. has officially endorsed the S.D.M.S. statement on the non-diagnostic use of ultrasound. The following is the final statement which will become C.S.D.M.S. policy for all future discussions regarding this issue.

Ultrasound examination during pregnancy is increasingly common and is considered a routine procedure by many. However it is not clear that ultrasound waves are free of risks to the growing fetus. It is prudent to avoid or limit exposure to ultrasound waves during the vulnerable fetal period. Fetal ultrasound examination should not be a routine practice, but should only be performed when there is a clear medical indication.

The S.D.M.S. states: "Videotaping for entertainment is, by definition, a non-diagnostic procedure. Its sole purpose in these much publicized businesses is to produce images of the developing fetus. Therein lies the center of the controversy. As a result of much deliberation the Board issued the following statement:

*Diagnostic Medical Sonography is a medical procedure that is requested by a physician, performed by a sonographer, and interpreted by a sonologist. It is a diagnostic procedure often used to examine a developing fetus for abnormalities. Within the past few years, however, a small number of private businesses have opened for the sole purpose of providing parents with images of a developing fetus on videocassette. Because the service is provided for entertainment purposes only it is considered non-diagnostic.*

*This is a topic that has generated much debate and discussion among those in the diagnostic medical sonography profession and has recently received a great deal of media attention. The Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers recognizes the responsibility we have to the health care community and patients. As Diagnostic Medical Sonographers we are committed to act in the best interest of the patient and to maintain ethical standards to preserve and promote Sonography as a profession. Because of our dedication to professionalism and our commitment to the use of ultrasound as a diagnostic procedure, SDMS does not condone the use of ultrasound solely for entertainment purposes. "*