

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RADIOLOGISTS:

POSITION ON THE USE OF DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUND FOR NON-MEDICAL PURPOSES

The Canadian Association of Radiologists strongly opposes the use of Diagnostic Ultrasound equipment for non medical purposes and considers the use of medical ultrasound for entertainment to be a misuse of the technology especially if fetal subjects are involved.

The Canadian Association of Radiologists is concerned that the use of Diagnostic Ultrasound for this purpose may give a false sense of security to mothers and that the operators of the equipment may not be adequately trained to recognize fetal and placental abnormalities which may adversely affect maternal and fetal outcome. An ultrasound examination performed for entertainment purposes assumes that everything is normal and thus leads to a higher potential for missed diagnosis if medical exams are performed by non medical personnel. A diagnosis from an ultrasound examination represents the practice of medicine and the Canadian Association of Radiologists is concerned about the mechanism for appropriate referral by a non physician if an abnormality is suspected on the entertainment ultrasound.

The Canadian Association of Radiologists directs its board to express concern through appropriate channels such as equipment suppliers, the Canadian Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers and government agencies in order to facilitate closure and prevent proliferation of businesses which use diagnostic ultrasound equipment for non medical purposes.

Adopted by CAR Coucil, February 11,1996