

**[MTRCB MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 12-2011,
December 01, 2011]**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE STRONG PARENTAL GUIDANCE (SPG)
CLASSIFICATION RATING**

WHEREAS, the Constitution has imposed the sacred obligation and responsibility on the State to provide protection to the youth against illegal or improper activities which may prejudice their general well-being.

WHEREAS, the welfare of the children and the State's mandate to protect and care for them, as *parens patriae*, constitute a substantial and compelling government interest in regulating content of television broadcast.

WHEREAS, the best interests of children shall be the paramount consideration in all activities, actions, and proceedings concerning them, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities, and legislative bodies, consistent with the principle of First Call for Children, as enunciated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

WHEREAS, the government has to balance the interest of the State to protect and promote the development and welfare of the youth with the interest of the broadcast industry to full enjoyment of the freedom of speech vis-à-vis the self-regulatory schemes undertaken by the different broadcast networks.

NOW, therefore, pursuant to Memorandum Circular No. 05-2011 in relation to Section 3(a) of Presidential Decree No. 1986, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board ("BOARD") hereby enacts and promulgates the following rules and guidelines for the proper implementation of the Strong Parental Guidance (SPG) classification rating for television programs, as follows:

STRONG PARENTAL GUIDANCE ("SPG") – Stronger and more vigilant parental guidance is suggested. Programs classified "SPG" may contain more serious topic and theme, which may not be advisable for children to watch except under the very vigilant guidance and presence of a parent or adult.

The "SPG" classification warns parents to exercise greater parental responsibility in their children's viewing of the program. The television program classified as "SPG" must still fall within the parameters of the existing Parental Guidance classification rating. However, to merit the issuance of an "SPG" rating, the gravity of the material must, in the judgment of the Board, be leaning towards the maximum allowable for Parental Guidance rating. In determining the proper classification rating, the Board shall consider the purpose, genre, and time slot of the program as well as the treatment and depiction of attendant factors such as, but not limited to: *Theme* (**Tema**), *Violence* (**Karahasan**), *Drugs* (**Droga**), *Language* (**Lenggwahe**), *Sex* (**Sekswal**), and *Horror* (**Katatakutan**).