

= I 'll See You in Court =

" I 'll See You in Court " is the tenth episode of the third season from the TV comedy series Married ... with Children . The episode follows the Bundys ' attempts (at Marcy Rhoades 's suggestion) to improve their love life by having marital relations in a different setting . While staying at the Hop @-@ On @-@ Inn , the Bundys discover a secretly recorded video tape of the Rhoades having sex . Despite this , the Bundys decide to have sex and end up having themselves recorded as well . The two families then proceed to sue the establishment for violation of their privacy .

Conflict erupted between the show 's producers and the airing network over the episode 's content , which prevented the episode from being aired for well over a decade , far past Married ... with Children 's initial television run . Even when first shown on American television in 2002 , four lines were removed from the broadcast , despite it having already run uncut in other countries .

= = Plot = =

After writing to a televised sex @-@ help program , Peggy decides that the best way to rekindle her relationship with Al is to have sex in a different location . Upon Marcy 's recommendation , Peggy and Al go to the Hop @-@ On @-@ Inn and discover a videotape waiting for them in their room . After watching some of the tape , the Bundys realize that the couple having sex on the video is Steve and Marcy . Although Al is disgusted , the action turns Peggy on and the couple has sex .

Peggy and Al return home and show the tape to Steve and Marcy , who are embarrassed by the film , much to the delight of the Bundys . The Rhoades express their dismay that they were secretly recorded , but Steve points out that the Bundys may have been videotaped as well . Marcy and Al are upset by this violation of their privacy and propose physical violence against the owners of the motel . Steve and Peg , on the other hand , want to take action against the Hop @-@ On @-@ Inn and make money from the incident .

Peggy convinces Al to sue the motel with her and the Rhoades . Steve , not wanting a lawyer to take any of the million dollars he expects to win from the case , decides to act as one for the two families . The case begins with Steve presenting a lengthy opening statement , during which the stenographer and the judge fall asleep . Next , Steve shows the subpoenaed sex tapes from the motel , despite objections from his wife . After a few hours , the tape runs out and the courtroom applauds Steve and Marcy 's romp . Next , Steve shows Peggy and Al 's tape , which ends after a few seconds .

After the plaintiff rests , the defense lawyer calls Marcy , Al , and Peggy to the stand . She asks Marcy a series of embarrassing questions , hoping to prove Marcy knew that the camera was there . Her tactic with the Bundys is to try to prove sexual intercourse did not occur on the videotape . In the end , the Rhoades are awarded \$ 10 @,@ 000 but the Bundys receive nothing , because the jury does not believe that sex occurred . After everyone exits the courtroom , Al attempts to prove that he can perform when he wants to and has sex with Peggy for hours on the judge 's bench , unwittingly while being recorded by the courtroom camera .

= = Production and controversy = =

The episode was written by Jeanne Baruch and Jeanne Romano , both newcomers to Married ... with Children . Directed by Gerry Cohen , the show was taped on January 6 , 1989 , with a planned airing date of February 19 of the same year . The censors of the Fox Broadcasting Company , however , objected to many of the lines in the show . It was not the first time that Fox censors had struggled with the content in Married ... with Children . Earlier in the season , producers and writers Michael G. Moyer and Ron Leavitt had to fight with the censors to air " The Camping Show " , an episode where the Bundys and the Rhodes are trapped in a cabin in the wilderness as all three women have their periods at the same time . It was originally intended to be shown in November 1988 , but its airing was delayed while the network wrangled with the subject matter . The episode aired on December 11 , 1988 , but the producers were forced to change the title from " A Period

Piece " to " The Camping Show " , despite the fact that the title itself does not appear onscreen and is not mentioned during the program .

The censors ended up pulling " I 'll See You in Court " , preventing it from airing in the United States during the series ' original run . Terry Rakolta , a woman from Bloomfield Hills , Michigan , had launched a letter @-@ writing campaign against the program after viewing the Season 3 episode " Her Cups Runneth Over " in January 1989 . Offended by the episode 's content , she urged advertisers to boycott the show , several of whom did or pledged to more carefully screen the episodes for which they provided advertising . The campaign garnered more media attention than she had expected and the advertisers ' more careful scrutiny of the individual episodes that they supported was a significant factor that led to the pulling of " I 'll See You in Court " . Contributing to this was that the overall topic , sex , was not seen as a topic to be vocally and openly discussed on television .

In an interview with Playboy magazine , Moyer claimed that the producers dubbed the episode " The Lost Episode " both because it never aired and because they felt that they lost control of the project . A typical episode of Married ... with Children contained two or three censor notes denoting content that was " too graphic " or " over the edge . " , whereas " I 'll See You in Court " contained a total of 15 . After arguing with the censors and conceding all but four of the notes , Fox still refused to air the episode . Moyer claims that the final total of 13 changes was unacceptable because " [t] he integrity of the show was shot to hell . "

The episode did , however , premiere in other parts of the world in 1990 . On June 18 , 2002 , the FX network broadcast the episode for the first time on American television . The episode , however , was still not shown in its entirety , as the network cut four lines , less than one minute , during the scene where the two families decide on what to do about the videotapes :

Although the episode has aired in Australia (although initially in a later than normal time) , New Zealand , Europe , and Canada unedited , the above omission means that the show has never been broadcast in the United States in its entirety . The total time between when the episode was taped and when it premiered in the United States was 13 years , 5 months , and 12 days .

= = Reception = =

The episode remained unaired for so long in the United States that contemporary critics did not have an opportunity to review it . After the 2002 airing , the episode became available in the United States on the Married with Children , Vol . 1 ? The Most Outrageous Episodes DVD , which was released on February 4 , 2003 and the The Complete Third Season , which was released on January 25 , 2005 . DVD Verdict claimed that the content of the show was not overly racy , even by the standards of the era . The review claims that , by 2003 , the content was " so sedate as to be comatose . " Film Freak Central gave the episode a grade of C + , calling the episode " quaint " and warning to " [n] ever trust the hype . "