

# This Wedding Vendor Sent Satan Pamphlets to a Same-Sex Couple, and We're Horrified

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As Stephen Heasley and Andrew Borg, a same-sex couple from Australia, made arrangements for their September wedding in Butler County, Pennsylvania, they designed programs on Vistaprint and patiently waited for them to arrive. On the night before their hillside ceremony, they opened the box, which they thought was full of their custom programs, and found something else, instead.

According to a federal suit filed in Massachusetts, “when Mr. Heasley and Mr. Borg opened the Vistaprint package, they were horrified to find that Vistaprint had not shipped their customized wedding package. Instead, Vistaprint shipped them approximately 80 copies of a discriminatory pamphlet entitled: ‘Understanding Temptation: Fight the good fight of the faith.’” The couple is suing for unspecified damages.

The Australian couple had spent \$79.49 on about 100 programs, which were supposed to contain the lyrics to their processional song, “Treasure” by Above and Beyond. Heasley and Borg had gone to a concert featuring the English electronic-dance music group the day they got engaged. In the box they were sent from Vistaprint, there were no sentimental lyrics to be found.

“Rather than send plaintiffs the custom wedding programs they had purchased, Vistaprint instead sent plaintiffs literature with hateful, discriminatory, and anti-gay messages equating their relationship to Satan’s temptation,” according to the lawsuit, which targets both Vistaprint and the “John Doe” who was allegedly responsible.

The couple had to shell out even more money to print their own programs just hours before they planned to walk down the aisle.

“Vistaprint would never discriminate against customers for their sexual orientation. We pride ourselves on being a company that celebrates diversity and enables customers all over the world to customize products for their special events,” a company spokesperson said in a statement.

“We have just been made aware of this incident in the last few hours,” the spokesperson continued. “We understand how upsetting it would be for anyone to receive materials such as these the night before their wedding and we have immediately launched an internal investigation.”

As their lawyer, Michael J. Willemin, of the law firm Wigdor LLP, pointed out, “This case presents a particularly egregious example of a company refusing to provide equal services to members of the LBGTQ community.”

Just last month, the US Supreme Court heard the case of a Colorado baker who refused to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex couple there. As of early December, the court still appeared to be split on the case.

In a statement about their nightmare experience with Vistaprint, Heasley and Borg said, "Our goal is to hold Vistaprint accountable for the harm they have caused ... and to send a message that there will be consequences for acts of hate perpetrated against others."