# Stacey Dooley films in Nevada brothel with infant daughter to explore legal sex work



Stacey Dooley has taken a unique approach to balancing motherhood and her career, sharing her experience of taking her infant daughter, Minnie, along with her during the filming of her documentary series, *Stacey Dooley Sleeps Over USA*. This particular episode, which features a weekend spent at The Mustang Ranch, a legal brothel in Nevada, has sparked discussions about the implications of legalising sex work and the experiences of those who work within the industry.

During a recent appearance at the Hay Literary Festival, Dooley recounted the surprising decision to bring her eight-month-old daughter on a trip to a licensed brothel. Initially, the broadcaster had not intended to take Minnie; however, she found herself uneasy about leaving her behind as the filming date approached. “I’d sort of signed the contract and was like: oh, she’ll be eight months, that'll be fine,” she remarked. Ultimately, she received special permission from the sheriff for Minnie’s presence at the brothel, a decision she acknowledges sounds comedic yet reflective of her unorthodox work-life balance.

The Mustang Ranch, established in 1971, is an iconic establishment in Nevada, known for its legal status amidst ongoing debates about sex work. The structure has undergone various changes, having been forfeited to the federal government in 1999 due to legal issues, but has since been licensed again. The ranch aims to offer a safer and more regulated environment for sex workers, providing on-site medical facilities and security, which contrasts sharply with the often dangerous conditions faced by those in states where sex work is criminalised. Dooley’s documentary delves into these contrasts, exploring the lives of courtesans and evaluating whether legal brothels can mitigate the risks associated with the profession.

While Dooley filmed interviews with the women working at The Mustang Ranch, her partner, Kevin Clifton, stayed in a rented trailer nearby to care for Minnie. She shared, “I have to then rent a trailer to put [my child] in. Her dad stays in this trailer with Minnie looking out the window while I'm filming… The girls at the brothel were like, 'Morning, Miss Minnie!' I’m like, she'll be open-minded if nothing else!” This family-oriented dynamic during such unique circumstances highlights the intricacies of her life as a working mother in the often-exploited landscape of media representation.

Critics and commentators have pointed out that Dooley’s approach sheds light on both the empowerment and the challenges faced by women in the sex industry. Her documentary not only portrays the complexities of their experiences but also aims to foster a conversation about the benefits of legalisation. Dooley’s alignment with advocates for the legalisation of brothels is transparent, as she questioned why more states do not adopt similar measures, pointing to the safety, comfort, and legal rights provided to sex workers in Nevada.

In this exploration, Dooley’s narrative goes beyond conventional boundaries, presenting a nuanced view of sex work while also confronting the realities of motherhood. By integrating her personal journey of balancing her professional commitments with caring for her daughter, she encourages viewers to reconsider preconceived notions about both the profession and the challenges modern parents face.

This blend of personal experience and societal commentary reflects Dooley's ongoing commitment to tackling difficult subjects through her work, ensuring that such discussions remain relevant in contemporary media. As she continues to document unique American families and communities through her series, her experiences at The Mustang Ranch will undoubtedly contribute to a broader understanding of the complexities surrounding sex work in today’s cultural landscape.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a64875259/stacey-dooley-baby-daughter-filming/), [[2]](https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a64875259/stacey-dooley-baby-daughter-filming/), [[6]](https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a60220102/stacey-dooley-sleeps-over-comfy-brothel-stay/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[4]](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mustang-ranch-rides-again/), [[5]](https://www.tvmaze.com/news/3668/stacey-dooley-sleeps-over-usa-families-and-communities-revealed-for-2nd-series-of-stacey-dooley-sleeps-over-usa-on-w), [[7]](https://hungermag.com/art-culture/stacey-dooleys-new-documentary-is-a-damning-case-for-the-legalisation-of-brothels)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.tvmaze.com/news/3668/stacey-dooley-sleeps-over-usa-families-and-communities-revealed-for-2nd-series-of-stacey-dooley-sleeps-over-usa-on-w), [[6]](https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a60220102/stacey-dooley-sleeps-over-comfy-brothel-stay/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a64875259/stacey-dooley-baby-daughter-filming/), [[3]](https://www.tvmaze.com/episodes/2783702/stacey-dooley-sleeps-over-usa-2x01-the-brothel-mustang-ranch), [[7]](https://hungermag.com/art-culture/stacey-dooleys-new-documentary-is-a-damning-case-for-the-legalisation-of-brothels)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a64875259/stacey-dooley-baby-daughter-filming/), [[5]](https://www.tvmaze.com/news/3668/stacey-dooley-sleeps-over-usa-families-and-communities-revealed-for-2nd-series-of-stacey-dooley-sleeps-over-usa-on-w), [[7]](https://hungermag.com/art-culture/stacey-dooleys-new-documentary-is-a-damning-case-for-the-legalisation-of-brothels)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a64875259/stacey-dooley-baby-daughter-filming/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a64875259/stacey-dooley-baby-daughter-filming/> - Stacey Dooley shared her experience of taking her eight-month-old daughter, Minnie, to Nevada while filming her Sky documentary series, 'Stacey Dooley Sleeps Over USA.' During the trip, she visited The Mustang Ranch, a legal brothel in Nevada, to explore the lives of sex workers. Initially hesitant to leave her daughter behind, Dooley decided to bring Minnie along. She received special permission from the sheriff for her daughter to be present at the brothel. While filming, Dooley breastfed Minnie in a rented trailer, with her partner, Kevin Clifton, staying with Minnie during her mother's filming sessions.
3. <https://www.tvmaze.com/episodes/2783702/stacey-dooley-sleeps-over-usa-2x01-the-brothel-mustang-ranch> - In the first episode of the second series of 'Stacey Dooley Sleeps Over USA,' titled 'The Brothel,' Stacey Dooley spends the weekend at Nevada's oldest legal brothel, The Mustang Ranch. She meets the courtesans, clients, and madams in charge, questioning if legal brothels can act as a solution to the dangers sex workers face. The episode originally aired on March 17, 2024, and has a runtime of 60 minutes.
4. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mustang-ranch-rides-again/> - Following legal issues, the Mustang Ranch brothel in Nevada was forfeited to the federal government in 1999. The Bureau of Land Management considered converting the main building into an interpretive center for its Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Center. The brothel, located along the Truckee River near Interstate 80, was Nevada's first licensed brothel, established in 1971, and became a significant part of the state's history.
5. <https://www.tvmaze.com/news/3668/stacey-dooley-sleeps-over-usa-families-and-communities-revealed-for-2nd-series-of-stacey-dooley-sleeps-over-usa-on-w> - The second series of 'Stacey Dooley Sleeps Over USA' features various unique American families and communities. One episode, 'The Brothel,' focuses on The Mustang Ranch, Nevada's oldest licensed brothel, established in 1971. Managed by two former working women, Jennifer and Tara, the ranch receives up to 20 new applicants per day. Stacey Dooley explores the positives and negatives of the legal brothel industry during her stay.
6. <https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/a60220102/stacey-dooley-sleeps-over-comfy-brothel-stay/> - Stacey Dooley recalled her experience staying in a 'super comfy' brothel for the docuseries 'Stacey Dooley Sleeps Over USA.' She praised the madams and the women working there for their transparency and pride in their profession. Dooley expressed her support for the legalization of brothels in Nevada, stating that she doesn't understand why other states don't adopt the same approach.
7. <https://hungermag.com/art-culture/stacey-dooleys-new-documentary-is-a-damning-case-for-the-legalisation-of-brothels> - Stacey Dooley's documentary, 'Stacey Dooley Sleeps Over USA: The Brothel,' sheds light on the conditions at The Mustang Ranch, Nevada's oldest legal brothel. The documentary highlights the safety, comfort, and legal protections afforded to sex workers in Nevada, contrasting it with the precarious situations faced by those in states where sex work is criminalized. The Mustang Ranch offers a safer environment for sex workers, with on-site medical centers and mandatory training on subjects like condom use.