

Showing Films at Church

COPYRIGHT FACT FILE

This FACT FILE has been created by Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) as a guide to the copyright implications of showing films during church activities. If you do not find all the information you need in this FACT FILE, please visit www.ccli.co.uk or contact CCLI (details overleaf).

COPYRIGHT AND THE LAW

Copyright is an intellectual property right given to the creators of original musical, literary and dramatic works. The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 is the legislation that currently operates in the UK and provides the creator with two main rights:

- **Economic** - this allows the creator to charge anyone who wishes to copy, perform or record their work for any commercial or non-commercial use.
- **Moral** - this allows the creator to protect their work from any change which might be considered offensive or not in keeping with their wishes.

Pre-recorded videos and DVDs, such as those bought or rented from shops, are only intended for personal home use, not for public viewing in your church building or hall.

FAIR DEALING

Under copyright law there are various provisions under Fair Dealing which cover the reproduction or performance of certain copyright works for education and research. However, these rights do not extend to the performance or showing of films or film scenes during church activities, regardless of the age or type of audience or the length of the film scene.

SHOWING FILMS

Two performance rights are involved when a film is shown, one for the film itself and the other for any music included. To show a film in public therefore requires permission from the film producer and a PRS for Music licence to cover music on the soundtrack.

You will need to ensure you have the appropriate copyright permissions, depending on the context in which the film is shown. For example:

- Film scenes during church services** - Many churches now include short scenes from films to act as a visual aid to a children's talk or sermon. PRS for Music has chosen to waive the requirement for a licence for music performed during an act of divine worship. This means that during a Sunday service you do not need a PRS for Music licence to show an excerpt from a film, however you do still require permission from the film's producer.
- Film scenes in other teaching activities** - If you use film scenes at your men's breakfast meeting, youth club, or senior's club etc, these are not defined as acts of divine worship and therefore a PRS for Music licence is required in addition to permission from the film's producer.
- Full-length films for entertainment, outreach or social events** - These activities would not be deemed acts of divine worship and therefore a PRS for Music licence is required in addition to permission from the film's producer.

NB: For more about showing film scenes, see 'The Church & The Internet' fact file.

Continued overleaf...

COPYRIGHT LICENCES

Instead of contacting the film producers each time you want to show a film, you could purchase an annual Church Video Licence from CCLI which permits you to show a wide range of Christian and secular films as often as you wish throughout the year. You can also obtain a PRS for Music Church Licence from CCLI.

| Activity | Licences |
|---|--|
| Showing film scenes to illustrate children's talks or sermon points during an act of divine worship | Church Video Licence (CVL) |
| Showing film scenes or entire films for teaching, outreach or entertainment (but not during an act of divine worship) | Church Video Licence (CVL) PRS for Music Church Licence |

If you don't want an annual licence, you could obtain an event licence which has the same rights and limitations as the annual version, but it only lasts for a period of 14 consecutive days. Alternatively a Single Title Screening Licence (STSL) is available from Filmbank (www.filmbank.co.uk). This licence allows you to show films for one-off commercial and non-commercial use. As the name suggests, each STSL is issued on a title-by-title basis; Filmbank cannot sell an annual licence to churches. A PRS for Music Church Licence would also be required if the film/scene is not shown during an act of divine worship.

ADVERTISING & CHARGING

The terms of the Church Video Licence do not permit you to advertise film titles outside your church because this will be regarded as competing with any local cinemas. Furthermore, the licence is for non-commercial use only so you cannot charge people to see the film, though a free-will offering may be taken.

The STSL from Filmbank does permit you to advertise film titles and charge for entry, however the cost of your licence will reflect the numbers attending and the commercial nature of your event.

PROGRAMMES / FILMS RECORDED FROM TELEVISION/SATELITE/CABLE

The Church Video Licence and Filmbank STSL each cover commercially available films from an authorised list of producers. Neither of these licences covers programmes recorded from broadcast media. You must obtain permission from the programme / film producers before you can show such recordings in public.

More information about the films / producers / studios covered by each copyright licence is available here:

- CCLI - www.ccli.co.uk/film-producers
- Filmbank - www.filmbank.co.uk/stsl

The STSL from Filmbank does permit you to advertise film titles and charge for entry, however the cost of your licence will reflect the numbers attending and the commercial nature of your event.

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This FACT FILE has been produced to offer guidance and advice to those who might show films in worship services and associated church activities. It does not claim to be a full description of copyright law, and CCLI cannot accept any responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information provided.

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