

# COPYRIGHT FACT FILE:

## Showing films at church

This FACT FILE has been created by Christian Copyright Licensing International 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 our website [www.ccli.co.za](http://www.ccli.co.za) or contact CCLI on 021 914 8908.

## 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 no 98 of 1976 is the legislation that currently operates in SA 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 DVD's, 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 copyrights works for education and research. However, these rights do not extend to the performance of showing of films or films scenes during church activities, regardless of the age or type of audience or the length of the film scene.

## SHOWING FILMS

CCLI Africa has signed an agreement with hundreds of Producers, like Dreamworks, Disney, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox and Universal to provide legal coverage for churches and for other ministry organisations to show DVD's and videocassettes of motion pictures: Coverage includes playing just a few seconds of a movie all the way up to showing the full-length feature.

**NOW YOU CAN** - use selected movies to illustrate sermon points  
- view the latest videos at your Sunday Schools and Youth Groups  
- use videos for teaching and training for your Educational classes  
- host special event movie nights

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.

## ADVERTISING & CHARGING

The terms of the Church Video Licence do not permit you to do advertise film titles outside your church because this will be regarded as competing with your 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.

## PRODUCERS

More information about the Producers who signed up with CCLI, visit our website, [www.ccli.co.za](http://www.ccli.co.za)

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.