



Church Copyright Fact File

Showing Films

This Fact File has been created by CCLI as a guide to the copyright implications of showing films during church activities. If you do not find all the information you need here, please visit ccli.com or contact CCLI (details overleaf).

What do I need to know?

Pre-recorded DVDs, Blu-Rays, videos and many online videos (on sites such as YouTube) are only intended for personal home use, not for public viewing in your church building or hall without permission.

Showing films

Two rights should be considered when a film is shown. One for the film itself and one relating to music on the soundtrack. To show a film in public therefore requires permission from the producer/distributor of the film (or via a Church Video Licence), and a licence from PRS for Music.

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

Film scenes shown during church services	Many churches now include short scenes from films to act as a visual aid during a sermon or children's talk. PRS for Music has chosen to waive the requirement for performance licences for music played during Acts of Worship. Therefore, in order to show film scenes during Sunday services you only require permission from the film producer. A Church Video Licence, available from CCLI, covers most of the top film producers and studios.
Film scenes shown during other activities	If you use film scenes at your men's breakfast meetings, youth club, or senior's club etc., these are not deemed to be Acts of Worship and therefore a PRS for Music licence will be required in addition to a Church Video Licence.
Full-length films shown for entertainment, outreach and social events	These activities are not deemed to be Acts of Worship and therefore a PRS for Music licence will be required in addition to a Church Video Licence.

NB: For information about showing films or videos downloaded or streamed from the internet see *The Church and The Internet Fact File*.

Copyright licences

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

Activity	Licence(s)
Showing film scenes to illustrate sermon points or children's talks during regular worship services	Church Video Licence (CVL)
Showing film scenes in any activities outside of regular worship services	Church Video Licence (CVL) and PRS for Music Church Licence

Which films are covered by the Church Video Licence (CVL)?

The CVL covers more than 1,300 film and television studios/producers. Visit uk.ccli.com/check-film for a step-by-step guide to finding out if your film or programme is covered, or follow the instructions below:

1. Search the Distributors List against the title on imdb.com to see who has the **UK theatrical right** to the film. (To find this list, scroll down the film's page to the Company Credits section and then click 'See more')
2. Search for that studio/producer on CCLI's Producer List (uk.ccli.com/authorised). If it is included on the list then the film is covered by the CVL. If the studio/producer is not listed, the film is not covered by the CVL. In such cases you could try contacting FilmBank (filmbankmedia.com) to see if they license the film, or alternatively contact the film producer direct.

If you can't find the studio/producer with the UK theatrical right using this method, please contact CCLI for assistance.

Event licences

If you would like to show films during an event, you can apply for the 14-Day Event Licence from CCLI. This allows you to show a number of films for non-commercial use during your event.

Single title licences

- You can apply for a Single Title Movie Licence from MPLC. This allows you to show a film on a one-off basis for both commercial and non-commercial use. For more information visit themplc.co.uk/page/single-title-movie-licence
- You can apply for a Single Title Screening Licence (STSL) from Filmbank. This allows you to show a film on a one-off basis for both commercial and non-commercial use. For more information visit filmbankmedia.com/stsl

A PRS for Music Church Licence is also required if the film is being shown outside of an Act of Worship.

Advertising and charging

The terms of the Church Video Licence don't permit you to advertise film titles outside of 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 Single Title licences from MPLC and Filmbank do 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/Pay-TV

The Church Video Licence is now required alongside a TV licence/Pay TV subscription, a PRS for Music Church Licence and PPL Church Licence in order to show television programmes in church.

However, there are exceptions. You do not need a Church Video Licence to show news, national events, such as Royal Weddings, Remembrance Sunday, New Year's Eve celebrations, or live sport. You do still require the appropriate TV licence as well as cover from PRS for Music and PPL to show any television broadcast as part of a church activity.

Additionally, for some major national events and sports tournaments you may require a public viewing licence directly from the organiser. Depending on the nature of your church event, they won't always make a charge. Where possible, CCLI will publish details of any specific requirements ahead of major national or sporting events*

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This Fact File is provided for information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. If in doubt you should consult a legal expert. Whilst we aim to be as accurate as possible, CCLI can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information provided.