



# Richland College

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

## Office of Student Life Movie Copyright Notice

Copyright is a protection granted to the author of an original work which governs virtually every aspect of that work to include distribution, duplication, alteration, use and sale. Copyright laws are not always a clear path. That doesn't mean that there are no answers, just answers that are not always clear cut and to the point.

Before showing a film on campus, here are some things you might want to consider:

### 1. Is it a public performance?

Any exhibition of a movie outside the privacy of a home setting is considered a public performance.

### 2. Is a license needed to show the film?

Yes! A license is required for all public performances, regardless if:

- Admission is charged.
- It was produced decades ago
- The film is owned by a member of the organization
- The video store or equipment provider says it is okay to exhibit rented or purchased movies

Public Performance Rights (licenses) for film typically runs from \$300-\$650 per showing for popular titles from major movie distributors. Independent films could cost less, depending on the distributor of the film. As far as TV episodes, it usually costs around \$100 per 30 minutes of film.

### 3. If a license is purchased, can the movie be shown whenever?

No. Licenses are for a specific, designated time frame. There are no annual licenses available to colleges and universities.

If a license for a film is not obtained, the organization bears the ultimate responsibility and consequences of copyright infringement. Fines for copyright infringement range from \$200 to \$150,000 for each work infringed and the infringer could possibly go to jail.

Swank Motion Pictures is a film distributing company that works with college environments and handles most commercial grade film titles. For pricing and availability you may contact them at 1-800-876-5577 or <http://www.swank.com/college/pdf/SwankCopyright.pdf>