



# Policy for the Circulation of Film and Television

## 1.0 Policy Statement

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) will circulate film and television series in a manner that complies with the Government of Nova Scotia's Alcohol and Gaming Division (Nova Scotia Labour and Workforce Development) Film Classification and the 2005 film and video ratings legislation amendments in the Government of Nova Scotia's (1989) *Theatres and Amusements Act*.

This compliance ensures that the regulations which dictate the rental of a film or television series from a commercial supplier like a convenience store, will govern the borrowing of similar materials from the library.

This policy clarifies for both the public and ECRL staff how these classifications affect patron borrower privileges. This policy will impact the borrowing privileges of library patrons under the age of 18.

## 2.0 Impact on Borrower Privileges

Eastern Counties Regional Library will be following the Film Classification division limitations on who may borrow film or television series categorized as:

- **R (Restricted)** – films which can be borrowed only by persons 18 years of age and over. Content not suitable for minors. Contains frequent use of sexual activity, brutal/graphic violence, intense horror and/or other disturbing content.
- **18A (Accompaniment)** –films which can be borrowed only by people 18 years and over. These films may contain: explicit violence, frequent coarse language, sexual activity and/or horror.
- **14A (Accompaniment)** - films which can be borrowed only by people 14 years and older. These films may contain: violence, coarse language and/or sexually suggestive scenes.

Films or television series will be identified with an appropriate film rating sticker on the DVD/Blue-Ray cover if the rating is one of the above.



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Branch/library staff will enforce this rating system by checking the patron's birth date information with formal identification.

If a patron is in one of the restricted age categories they will not be able to borrow films with these designations. If a patron is no longer in a restricted age category they may need to update their library information in order to borrow these films. Children or teens unaccompanied by a guardian will be required to show proof of age if updating their user status.

### 3.0 Definitions

The following definitions were obtained from the Government of Nova Scotia's Alcohol and Gaming Division (Nova Scotia Labour and Workforce Development) Film Classification Rating Guidelines (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/agd/film/ratingguidelines.asp>):

**"Brutal Violence":**

Visually explicit portrayals of violence, which may be characterized by extreme brutality, extreme bloodletting and/or extreme tissue damage. May include images of torture, horror or war.

**"Coarse Language":**

Product contains profanity, threats, slurs, sexual references or sexual innuendo.

**"Disturbing Content":**

Indicates the expected natural reaction by an audience to any elements of a film including the tone of a film pertaining to distress or suffering. This includes the implication or threat of physical and/or psychological violence, even when violence is not depicted.

**"Sexual Activity":**

Film may contain images and/or verbal references of sexual theme, sexual innuendo, fondling, implied sexual activity and simulated sexual activity.



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### "Sexual Violence":

The degradation of an individual in a sexual manner. May contain images of non-consensual acts with the intent to inflict harm, for example, simulated rape, and/or the use of threat to force compliance in sexual activity.

### "Violence":

May contain restrained portrayals of non-graphic violence, portrayals of violence with some bloodletting and/or tissue damage and frequent more prolonged portrayals of violence resulting in bloodletting and tissue damage. The degree frequency and intensity of the acts of violence will be factors in the classification decision.

### 4.0 Complaints

All complaints regarding the enforcement of this policy should be directed to the attention of the Chief Librarian through ECRL Headquarters.

### 5.0 Related Information

- Provincial Government of Nova Scotia (2010). *Film Classification* (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/agd/film/ratingguidelines.asp>)
- Province of Nova Scotia. (2005 [1989]). *Theatres and Amusements Act*.

Thank You