

CINEMA NIGHTS



pub is the hub

Poppleston
Allen
Solicitors

COPYRIGHT LAWS AND HOW IT AFFECTS YOU.



If you show a film which is not a live TV broadcast to customers then you need the following permissions:

1 Premises Licence

Authorising the showing of films subject to the couple of exceptions:

- a If the film is not the main event but is shown incidental to another event being hosted then there is an exemption. It would be sensible however to discuss this with the Council Licensing Officer before you show the film;
- b A 'not-for-profit' film exhibition held in community premises between 08.00 and 23.00 hours, before an audience of less than 500. The organiser must get consent to the screening from a person who is responsible for the premises and must abide by the age classification rating.

2 Copyright Licensing

All artistic content in films is owned by the "rights holder", who usually has an agent or distributor.

The majority of films are available via The British Institute (BFI), Film Bank and The Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC). You will need to contact the relevant distributor to get permission – and pay a fee – to show the film and avoid copyright infringement.

Filmbank has various options depending on your needs:

- Single Title Screen Licence - A licence for single film screenings e.g. community cinemas.
- Public Video Screening Licence – An annual licence for impromptu screenings and background ambience, e.g. schools.

- DVD Concierge Licence – An annual/seasonal licence for hotels, guest houses and B&B's allowing on site DVD film libraries.

MPLC offers an annual licence which allows unlimited showings of all works without the need of reporting titles, dates or times of performance.

A word of warning - if you do not show films but have your TV playing in the background then be ready and quick to turn off the TV if the next item broadcast is a film. If the film is protected by MPLC and you play it then you have breached copyright.

If in doubt, check with the companies/distributors mentioned above, all of whom have helpful websites. Have a look at www.gov.uk/showing-films-in-public and www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/resources/communitycinema.

3 PRS and PPL

If a soundtrack is included within the film, then the appropriate Phonographic Performance Limited Licence ("PPL") and Performing Rights Society Licence ("PRS") will be required. Different tariffs may apply to music played via a pub's sound system as opposed to played as part of a film so it is best to check directly with PPL and PRS what is required. Also, if you have permission from MPLC to show a film then you might find that the relevant permission from PRS is covered in the fee you have paid.

For further advice then contact Poppleston Allen on 0115 953 8500 or email l.sharkey@popall.co.uk