Minnesota Department of Corrections

Division Directive:	**303.035**	**Title: Television Broadcast Selections**
Issue Date:	**1/19/16**	
Effective Date:	**2/2/16**	

AUTHORITY: Minn. Stat. §241.01; §16A.72, and §243.23

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for selecting movies, videos, and pay television channels to be viewed by the offender population so that the working and living conditions of the facilities remain safe, secure, and inoffensive to staff, offenders, and visitors.

APPLICABILITY: Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC); all correctional facilities

DIRECTIVE: Facilities may broadcast purchased or rented movies and videos as authorized by the DOC's public performance licensing agreement, administered by the adult facilities support unit. The rented movies and videos must meet the Motion Picture Association of America's established classification and rating system of G, PG, PG-13, or be specially edited by the distribution agency to meet these rating guidelines. Movies with comparable classifications from other rating entities may also be broadcast. This directive does not restrict the use of videos (that do not meet the G, PG or PG-13 rating) in treatment/therapeutic educational or religious programs, as part of an approved treatment program, academic plan, or for the purposes of religious education, if it may be demonstrated that the video assists in providing a meaningful learning experience.

DEFINITIONS:

General audiences (G) - all ages admitted. A G film rating signifies that the film contains nothing that most parents would consider offensive for even their youngest children. Nudity, sex scenes, and scenes of drug use are absent; violence is minimal; sections of dialogue may go beyond polite conversation but do not go beyond common everyday expressions.

Parental guidance suggested (PG) - some material may not be suitable for children. A PG film rating signifies that the film may contain some material that parents may not like to expose their young children to, or material that clearly needs to be examined or inquired about before children are allowed to attend the film. Explicit sex scenes and scenes of drug use are absent; nudity, if present, is seen only briefly; horror and violence do not exceed moderate levels.

Parents strongly cautioned (PG-13) - some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. A PG-13 film rating signifies that the film may be inappropriate for pre-teens. Parents should be especially careful about letting their younger children attend. Rough or persistent violence is absent; sexually oriented nudity is generally absent; some scenes of drug use may be seen; some use of one of the harsher sexually-derived words may be heard.

Pay television - commercial television channels available through cable and/or satellite companies.

Premium channels - television channels that broadcast first run and newly released movies and videos.

Public performance licensing agreement - a contract established between the licensee and a movie distribution company granting legal permission to exhibit rented or purchased films to offenders and staff within the premises of certain correctional facilities.

Television Mature Audience (TV-MA) - a television program that may contain extreme graphic violence, strong profanity, overtly sexual dialogue, very coarse language, nudity and/or strong sexual content.

PROCEDURES:

A. Movie schedule - each facility may develop schedules for when movies may be shown to the general population.

B. Movie rating exceptions for treatment, education and religious programs:

1. Program staff and volunteers may initiate a request to show a movie that exceeds the rating criteria if they believe that the video would be a meaningful and integral part of the learning experience.

2. All requests must be made in writing.
   a) The request must outline the rationale for the request including
      1)_ How the movie relates to the program;
      2) What context the video will be used in; and
      3) What it will illustrate to the program participants.
   b) The request must describe how the treatment or educational experience would be less effective if the movie were not used in the learning process.
   c) Other factors that must be addressed are the reaction of the viewers and whether the movie presents security concerns.

3. The requestor must submit the request and movie to the appropriate centralized committee (i.e., psychological services directors, education directors, religious practices committee) who reviews the request and the movie and makes a recommendation to the appointing authority.

4. The appointing authority must review the rationale and recommendation before making a decision.

5. If approved, the movie may only be shown in educational, religious, or treatment settings.

6. Follow-up discussions by a therapist, teacher, or religious professional must be part of the program.

C. Facilities may use offender generated funds to subscribe to pay television stations for general viewing.

D. Program viewing that is not allowed
   a) Premium pay television channels are prohibited.
   b) Facilities may not subscribe to Pay Per View movies or sporting events.

INTERNAL CONTROLS:

A. The movie schedule indicating the movies shown is retained by the facility for 90 days.

REVIEW: Annually

REFERENCES: None

SUPERSESSION: Division Directive 303.035, "Television Broadcast Selections," 7/3/12.
All facility policies, memos, or other communications whether verbal, written, or transmitted by electronic means regarding this topic.

ATTACHMENTS: None

/s/
Assistant Commissioner Facilities Division