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Public Performance Rights

Definition

The public performance right is the right to recite, play, dance, act, or show the work at public place or to transmit it to the public. In the case of a motion picture or other audiovisual work, showing the work's images in sequence is considered "performance."

Restrictions

Commercial films and video tapes or DVDs have copyrights that restrict the manner in which they can be shown. There are two specific issues to consider:

1. There is a clear distinction between "home" versus "public" viewings. If you buy or rent a film or a videotape or DVD, you always have permission to show it in your home. However, you are not allowed to show it in a classroom, library or any other public forum without a public performance right.
2. If you are charging an admission (or viewing) fee, it **always** requires an explicit public performance right.

How to Obtain Public Performance Rights

If you wish to show a film or videotape or DVD outside your home **and/or** charge admission to view it, you must have acceptable public performance rights. You will need to obtain written public performance rights, which will include an additional licensing fee, from BTG Productions. Please contact legal@btgproductions.com, or BTG Productions, PO Box 133, New York, NY 10014. Failure to do this is subject to legal action by BTG Productions.

Additional Information

If you are interested in learning more about the laws about Intellectual Property, see the US Government web sites at <http://www.copyright.gov>.