

# Film and Television Ratings Guide

## Ontario Film Review Board Rating System

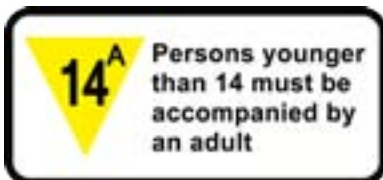
The Ontario Film Review Board's (OFRB) objective is to classify films based on classifications derived from the Film Classification Act, 2005 and thereby provide the public with sufficient information to make informed viewing choices for themselves and for their children.



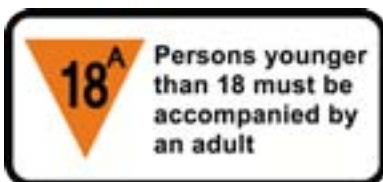
Suitable for viewers of all ages.



Parental guidance is advised. Theme or content may not be suitable for all children.



Suitable for viewing by persons 14 years of age and older. Persons under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. May contain violence, coarse language, and/or sexually suggestive scenes.



Suitable for viewing by persons 18 years of age and older. Persons under 18 may attend but must be accompanied by an adult. May contain explicit violence, frequent coarse language, sexual activity, and/or horror.



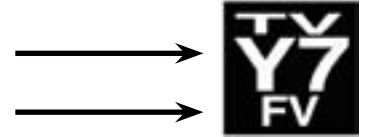
Admittance restricted to persons 18 years of age and over. Content not suitable for minors. May contain frequent use of sexual activity, brutal/graphic violence, intense horror, and/or other disturbing content.

## U.S. TV Parental Guidelines

The television industry designed a TV ratings system to give parents more information about the content and age-appropriateness of TV programs. These ratings, called the TV Parental Guidelines, are modeled after the familiar movie ratings. They are designed to be easily recognizable and simple to use. The guidelines apply to most television programs, including those directed specifically to young children. However, sports and news shows do not apply.

**Audience:** indicates the audience for which a television program is appropriate.

**Content Label:** indicates a show may contain higher levels of violence, sex, adult language, or suggestive dialogue.



### The Content Labels

TV Parental Guidelines may have one or more letters added to the basic rating to let parents know when a show may contain violence, sex, adult language, or suggestive dialogue.

**D** – suggestive dialogue (usually means conversation pertaining to sex)

**L** – coarse or crude language

**S** – sexual situations

**V** – violence

**FV** – fantasy violence (children’s programming only)



### All Children

This program is designed to be appropriate for all children. Whether animated or live-action, the themes and elements in this program are specifically designed for a very young audience, including children from ages 2-6. This program is not expected to frighten younger children.



### Directed to Older Children

This program is designed for children age 7 and above. It may be more appropriate for children who have acquired the developmental skills needed to distinguish between make-believe and reality. Themes and elements in this program may include mild fantasy violence or comedic violence, or may frighten children under the age of 7. Therefore, parents may wish to consider the suitability of this program for their very young children.



### Directed to Older Children - Fantasy Violence

For those programs where fantasy violence may be more intense or more combative than other programs in the TV-Y7 category, such programs will be designed TV-Y7-FV.



### General Audience

Most parents would find this program suitable for all ages. Although this rating does not signify a program designed specifically for children, most parents may let younger children watch this program unattended. It contains little or no violence, no strong language, and little or no sexual dialogue or situations.



### Parental Guidance Suggested

This program contains material that parents may find unsuitable for younger children. Many parents may want to watch it with their younger children. The theme itself may call for parental guidance and/or the program contains one or more of the following: moderate violence (V), some sexual situations (S), infrequent coarse language (L), or some suggestive dialogue (D).



### Parents Strongly Cautioned

This program contains some material that many parents would find unsuitable for children under 14 years of age. Parents are strongly urged to exercise greater care in monitoring this program and are cautioned against letting children under the age of 14 watch unattended. This program contains one or more of the following: intense violence (V), intense sexual situations (S), strong coarse language (L), or intensely suggestive dialogue (D).



### Mature Audience Only

This program is specifically designed to be viewed by adults and therefore may be unsuitable for children under 17. This program contains one or more of the following: graphic violence (V), explicit sexual activity (S), or crude, indecent language (L).

## Canadian Home Video Rating System

The Canadian Home Video Rating System (CHVRS) is a voluntary system administered by the Motion Picture Association – Canada, providing classification information for videos and DVDs that are distributed in the Canadian home entertainment market. Ratings are provided by the Provincial Classification Boards and aggregated by the Motion Picture Association – Canada to provide a uniform CHVRS rating for the home entertainment market in Canada.



Suitable for viewing by all ages.



Parental guidance advised. Themes or content may not be suitable for children.



Suitable for people 14 years of age or older. Those under 14 should view with an adult. No rental or purchase by those under 14. Parents cautioned. May contain violence, coarse language, and/or sexually suggestive scenes.



Suitable for people 18 years of age or older. Persons under 18 should view with an adult. No rental or purchase by those under 18. Parents strongly cautioned. Will likely contain explicit violence, frequent coarse language, sexual activity, and/or horror.



Restricted to 18 years and over. No rental or purchase by those under 18. Content not suitable for minors. Video contains frequent use of sexual activity, brutal/graphic violence, intense horror, and/or other disturbing content.



Exempt. Contains material not subject to classification, such as documentaries, nature, travel, music, arts and culture, sports, and educational and instructional information.

The following descriptions are general definitions of each of the sixteen information pieces that may be used when classifying films.

### **Not Recommended For Young Children**

The film may be inappropriate for young children. An example might be the death of a family pet, a complicated family breakdown, or images considered frightening or disturbing for the very young. "Young Children" would be persons age 8 and under.

### **Not Recommended For Children**

The film may include scenes that reflect a more mature situation, such as drug use/abuse. "Children" would be persons age 13 and under.

### **Frightening Scenes**

The film contains images that might shock or frighten a person. These scenes might be found in a thriller, suspense, or war genre.

### **Mature Theme**

The film contains images or storylines that may be disturbing or incomprehensible to minors. The film may contain portrayals of domestic violence, racism, religious matters, death, or controversial social issues.

### **Coarse Language**

The film contains profanity, threats, slurs, sexual references, or sexual innuendo.

### **Crude Content**

The film contains material or humour that is unrefined or coarse and that may be seen as harsh, rude, or offensive.

### **Nudity**

The film contains images of full frontal, partial, or rear nudity. Context will be determined by the situation, clarity, detail, repetition, and whether the nudity is in a non-sexual or sexual situation.

### **Sexual Content**

The film may contain images and/or verbal references of sexual themes, sexual innuendo, fondling, implied sexual activity, and simulated sexual activity.

### **Violence**

The film may contain restrained portrayals of non-graphic violence, portrayals of violence with some bloodletting and/or tissue damage, and/or 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.

### **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.

### **Substance Abuse**

The film may contain descriptive scenes depicting the use of illegal substances, the excessive use of tobacco, or the use of alcohol resulting in impairment.

## Gory Scenes

The film may contain graphic images of bloodletting and/or tissue damage. Includes horror or war representations. Degree, frequency, and intensity will also be a major factor in the classification decision.

## Explicit Sexual Content

The film contains sexual acts, shown in full, clear, unequivocal, and realistic detail that may or may not be gratuitous to the film.

## 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.

## Sexual Violence

The film contains scene(s) depicting 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.

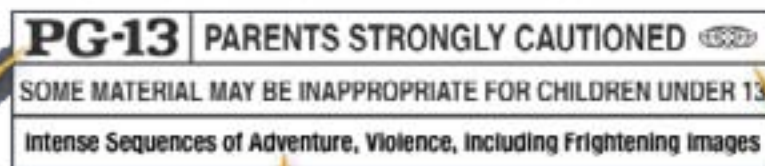
## Language May Offend

The film contains language that may be offensive to some groups, i.e. sacrilegious language such as Goddamn; also used for PG films that contain expletives.

## Motion Picture Association of America Rating System

Movie ratings provide parents with advance information about the content of films, so they can determine what movies are appropriate for their young children to see. Ratings are assigned by an independent board of parents with no past affiliation to the movie business. Their job is to rate each film as they believe a majority of American parents would rate it, considering relevant themes and content.

### ANATOMY OF A RATING



#### Rating

Every film is assigned a rating (G, PG, PG-13, R, or NC-17) that indicates the degree of caution parents should exercise in weighing whether a movie is suitable for children.

#### Rating Descriptors

This language is unique to each film and aims to convey with precision why the film received its rating.

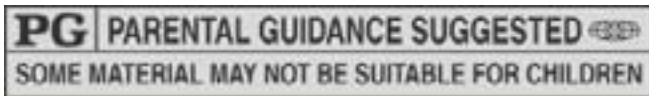
#### Rating Definition

This language provides a more detailed explanation to parents of what the specific rating means.



■ **G – General Audiences. All Ages Admitted.**

A G-rated motion picture contains nothing in theme, language, nudity, sex, violence, or other matters that, in the view of the Rating Board, would offend parents whose younger children view the motion picture. The G rating is not a “certificate of approval,” nor does it signify a “children’s” motion picture. Some snippets of language may go beyond polite conversation but they are common everyday expressions. No stronger words are present in G-rated motion pictures. Depictions of violence are minimal. No nudity, sex scenes, or drug use are present in the motion picture.



■ **PG – Parental Guidance Suggested. Some Material May Not Be Suitable For Children.**

A PG-rated motion picture should be investigated by parents before they let their younger children attend. The PG rating indicates, in the view of the Rating Board, that parents may consider some material unsuitable for their children, and parents should make that decision. The more mature themes in some PG-rated motion pictures may call for parental guidance. There may be some profanity and some depictions of violence or brief nudity. But these elements are not deemed so intense as to require that parents be strongly cautioned beyond the suggestion of parental guidance. There is no drug use content in a PG-rated motion picture.



■ **PG-13 – Parents Strongly Cautioned. Some Material May Not Be Suitable For Children under 13.**

A PG-13 rating is a sterner warning by the Rating Board to parents to determine whether their children under age 13 should view the motion picture, as some material might not be suited for them. A PG-13 motion picture may go beyond the PG rating in theme, violence, nudity, sensuality, language, adult activities, or other elements, but does not reach the restricted R category. The theme of the motion picture by itself will not result in a rating greater than PG-13, although depictions of activities related to a mature theme may result in a restricted rating for the motion picture. Any drug use will initially require at least a PG-13 rating. More than brief nudity will require at least a PG-13 rating, but such nudity in a PG-13 rated motion picture generally will not be sexually oriented. There may be depictions of violence in a PG-13 movie, but generally not both realistic and extreme or persistent violence. A motion picture’s single use of one of the harsher sexually derived words, though only as an expletive, initially requires at least a PG-13 rating. More than one such expletive requires an R rating, as must even one of those words used in a sexual context. The Rating Board nevertheless may rate such a motion picture PG-13 if, based on a special vote by a two-thirds majority, the Raters feel that most American parents would believe that a PG-13 rating is appropriate because of the context or manner in which the words are used or because the use of those words in the motion picture is inconspicuous.



■ **R – Restricted. Children Under 17 Require Accompanying Parent or Adult Guardian.**

An R-rated motion picture, in the view of the Rating Board, contains some adult material. An R-rated motion picture may include adult themes, adult activity, hard language, intense or persistent violence, sexually oriented nudity, drug abuse, or other elements, so that parents are counselled to take this rating very seriously. Children under 17 are not allowed to attend R-rated motion pictures unaccompanied by a parent or adult guardian. Parents are strongly urged to find out more about R-rated motion pictures in determining their suitability for their children. Generally, it is not appropriate for parents to bring their young children with them to R-rated motion pictures.



■ **NC-17 — No One 17 and Under Admitted.**

An NC-17 rated motion picture is one that, in the view of the Rating Board, most parents would consider patently too adult for their children 17 and under. No children will be admitted. NC-17 does not mean "obscene" or "pornographic" in the common or legal meaning of those words, and should not be construed as a negative judgment in any sense. The rating simply signals that the content is appropriate only for an adult audience. An NC-17 rating can be based on violence, sex, aberrational behaviour, drug abuse, or any other element that most parents would consider too strong and therefore off-limits for viewing by their children.

**For further questions regarding Film and Television Ratings, please contact Customer Service at 1.866.698.2231 or [info@cvsmidwesttapes.ca](mailto:info@cvsmidwesttapes.ca).**