



Film and Publication Board

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# CLASSIFICATION MADE EASY



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## The children's bill of rights-section 28

The children's Bill of Rights-Section 28  
of the Constitution-provides that children  
must be protected from abuse, degradation  
and maltreatment.



## Exposure of children to potentially disturbing, harmful and age-inappropriate materials in films, computer games and publications, is a form of child abuse.

As parents and guardians of children, we are duty bound both constitutionally and socially to protect them from the risk of developmental harm and emotional trauma posed by certain films, computer games and certain publications.

The Films and Publications Act (the Act) is government's response to that threat to the security and well-being of children. The Act provides for the establishment of the Film and Publication Board (the Board); with a clearly-defined mandate to regulate content, by means of classification by assigning age restrictions and consumer advice; through distribution, exhibition and possession of films, computer games and publications to prevent children from being exposed to material which is likely to cause developmental harm and emotional trauma.



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## The basic principles informing the Board are:

- a. Respect for the right of adults to freedom of choice within the law
- b. The duty to protect children from potentially disturbing and harmful materials
- c. The obligation to provide consumer advice so that parents and guardians may make informed viewing, reading and gaming choices, both for themselves and for children in their care, and the requirement that the concerns and views of the general public are reflected in the guidelines used to determine what is potentially disturbing or harmful or age appropriate for children.

The protection of children is duty imposed on all of us. “Children are a nation’s future”; is not just an empty cliché. Where the best interests of children are concerned we are all duty holders. This parents’ Guide to classification explains the purpose and significance of the classification of films, computer games and certain publications and how classification decisions should be used to protect children from potentially disturbing, harmful and age-inappropriate materials and from premature exposure to adult experiences.

WE HOPE THAT THIS GUIDE WILL SERVE AS A USEFUL REFERENCE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS IN MAKING APPROPRIATE VIEWING, GAMING AND READING CHOICES FOR CHILDREN.



# INTRODUCTION



# 1

The Film and Publication Act, 1996; as amended is part of government's response to Section 28 of the Constitution. The children's Acts and treaty obligations of the United Nations Convention on the rights of the children to protect children from harm, dictate the "HARM" in context of child protection is not only physical harm, but also psychological harm which affects children's cognitive and emotional development.

# 2

While the "direct cause-effect" debate is unlikely to either end or arrive at consensus, a number of research studies have shown a very high correlation between exposure to media violence, for example, and increased aggression in behavior. The Effects of Electronic Media on children ages zero to six: a history of research, center on media and child health, children's hospital, Boston, prepared for the Kaiser family foundation, 2005 that examined the longitudinal relations between TV-violence viewing at ages 6-10 and adult aggressive behavior about 15 years later; found that childhood exposure to media violence predicts young adult aggressiveness behavior for both males and females. Identification with aggressive TV characters and perceived realism of TV violence also predict later aggression. These relations persist even when the effects of socio-economic status, intellectual ability, and a variety of parenting factors are controlled. Over the past 40 years, a body of literature has emerged that strongly supports the notion that media-violence viewing is one factor contributing to the development of aggression.



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# THE FILM AND PUBLICATION ACT

## 3

The Films and Publications Act (the Act) requires the Film and Publication Board (the Board) to regulate the distribution, exhibition, and possession of films, interactive computer games and certain publications with due regard to the protection of children from sexual exploitation and degradation and from exposure to potentially disturbing, harmful and age inappropriate materials Section 18(1), (16), (2), (3) and (4) of the Act.

## 4

The distribution, exhibition and possession of films, interactive games and certain publications is regulated by means of classification, the imposition of age restrictions and assigning consumer information about the content of films, games and certain publications so that parents and child care-givers may make appropriate and informed viewing, gaming and reading choices for children in their care.



## 5



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Classification involves the examination and rating of a film, publication or computer game by a classification committee against a set of guidelines established by the Board in consultation with the public. Classification committees consist of at least two Classifiers appointed from a panel of Classifiers who are appointed on the basis of public nominations. Classifiers are appointed based on their experience, knowledge and qualifications and include child psychologists, educators, lawyers, film makers, authors, media experts, religious leaders and parents. They bring to the classification process a wide range of experiences but they all share one thing in common- a commitment to the protection and security and well being of children.

**5.1** Films are classified into three categories: Unrestricted distribution, restricted distribution and refused Category. The restricted distribution category (X18) comprises films which are strictly restricted for distribution or exhibition only to persons 18 years and older and only by the holders of licenses to conduct the business of adult premises and only from within such licensed premises. Restricted films have letter “X” as a prefix to the rating- “X 18”. XX films are prohibited from distribution and exhibition in public. In terms of the Act, XX material is considered presumptively harmful material.

Unrestricted distribution of films, on the other hand, are films which may be age restricted, including an age-rating of 18 years, but may be distributed or exhibited by any person registered with the Board as a distributor.

Refused category also child pornography contain material that is prohibited by the Films and Publications Act for distribution and it is not classified. The possession or distribution of child pornography is prohibited by the Act and where classification in terms of the Act is required, amounts to a refused category.

**5.2** Films and games are classified into categories on the basis of release format, context and impact of classifiable elements. A film in a format for exhibition in a cinema (usually in 35mm) is classified separately from the same film in the home entertainment format, such as DVD, Blu-Ray, 2-D and 3-D. It is not unusual for the same title to be rated differently in different formats, since the impact or effects on a viewer of a film on the “big” screen may be different to the same film on a small TV screen in the comfort of the viewers home.





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# THE LEGAL EFFECTS OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

# 6

Classification decisions, as opposed to classification categories (Note: the difference between classification categories and classification decisions). There are two classification categories: the “X” category (“X18 and “XX”) and the general category “A” to “18” category. Films in the “X” category are those commonly referred to as “pornographic” films that may not be distributed or exhibited to persons under the age of 18 years. In addition, such films may only be distributed from within licensed adult premises.

This guide is concerned only with the general, mainstream “A” to “18” category of films, may be either advisory or restrictive. An advisory decision, such as a “PG” rating, means an all ages category, but cautions that there may be disturbing or harmful for sensitive viewers; and indicates that parents and caregivers are in the best position to decide whether or not a child in their care may view the film or DVD for home entertainment purpose.

There is also age with parental guidance rating – the “7-9PG” and “10-12PG” categories which are both advisory and restrictive. Films rated “7-9PG” or “10-12PG” are films which may contain complex mature themes as well as troubling, distressing or upsetting scenes. However, these films may have some educational or entertainment value and may therefore be available to all children. However, children under the specified age of 10 years or 13 years must be accompanied by an adult to provide a reassuring and comforting counterbalance to any troubling, distressing or upsetting scenes.

Restrictive classifications are decisions which impose age restrictions on games and films. Material classified as “10” is not suitable for children under the age of 10. Material classified as “10” is prohibited from distribution, exhibition, sale or hire to children under the age of 10 years. Similarly, a film classified “13” is prohibited from distribution, exhibition, sale or hire to children under the age of 13 years. In terms section 26 (1)(f) of the Act, it is an offence to allow a child below the specified age to watch or hire a film restricted to children of and older than the specified age.

**SECTIONS 2, and 18(1)(2)(3) and (4) of the Act.**

The process applies equally to games and films.

**SECTIONS 16(1)(2)(3) and (4) applies to publications**



# THE CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES



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## 7

In terms of section 31 (3) of the Film and Publication Act, the Board is required to establish guidelines to be used in determining what may be disturbing, harmful or age appropriate for children. These guidelines are underpinned by national and international research studies on the effects of the media, especially visual media, the international best practice of similar classification authorities, and public representations to a draft version of the guidelines which is published by Gazette and made available to the public for their comments and inputs. Guidelines therefore based on scientific research and social concerns, and representative of the norms and values and tolerance levels of the public in response to the draft guidelines. The guidelines define the classifiable elements, age categories, the content of each age category and consumer information that must be considered in classification.

## 8 Classifiable Elements

The Guidelines identify certain classifiable elements which impact on viewers, depending on their context, frequency and impact intensity. Classification also takes into account the theme of a film, and in particular, the treatment of the theme. A complex mature theme, for instance, may be treated in such a way as to be understandable to even very young children, while a simpler theme might be treated in a way that makes that film inappropriate for young children.





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## 8.1

Themes, Language, Nudity, Sexual Activity, Violence, Sexual Violence, Drugs, Horror, Substance Abuse, Criminal Technique, Imitative Acts and Techniques, Competitive Intensity and Prejudice have been identified as the critical and mandatory classifiable elements when rating a film. The usual rule is: the more frequent and intense a classifiable element, the higher or more restrictive the rating, unless the context suggests otherwise. Voluntary consumer advice includes Blasphemy, which warns consumers that the content may be religiously sensitive that it does not amount to religious prejudice or hatred.

# 9

## Consumer Information

Because content advice can only be provided in a very abbreviated form, it is important for parents to understand consumer information alert symbols so as to be able to make informed viewing choices, both for themselves and for children in their care.

### 9.1

the following consumer information alert symbols are used:

“B” for blasphemy  
“L” for strong language  
“N” for nudity  
“P” for prejudice or negative stereotyping  
“S” for sexual activity

“V” for violence  
“D” for substance abuse  
“SV” for sexual violence  
“H” for horror  
Criminal Techniques  
Imitative Acts and Techniques



# THE CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES AND AGE CATEGORIES



A film classified “A” is considered suitable for all ages and may contain no material to distress or upset even very young viewers. This does not mean that the film is recommended for every one – only that when it is examined against the Act and Guidelines, the film does not contain any classifiable elements and themes that may be disturbing, harmful or age inappropriate that may be threatening to child’s sense of security and well being.



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A **“PG”** rating or classification means that although the film may be suitable for all ages, there may be certain scenes which might distress or upset younger, sensitive viewers. Children even within the same age-group are not developmentally alike and may not react emotionally or cognitively in the same way to the same materials. Parents are in the best position to determine whether or not a film classified “PG” is suitable for their children. The content of a “PG” film is neither disturbing nor harmful but may be age-inappropriate in the opinion of parents. In so far as the classifiable elements are concerned, a film may be classified “PG” the following basis:



**N**

**Nudity:** There may be instances of brief scenes of nudity in a natural but non sexual context.

**D**

**Substance Abuse:** Material may not contain any scenes of substance abuse and any substance abuse and any substance abuse can only be implied discreetly.

**S**

**Sexual Activity:** There are no scenes of actual or implied sexual activity but contain brief expressions of affection, such as kissing or embracing, in non sexual content.

**V**

**Violence:** There may be brief scenes of unrealistic, non-threatening and only low impact violence and a sense of low impact threat, menace or suspense. There will be no scenes of domestic or psychological violence.

**SV**

**Sexual Violence:** Material may not contain any scenes of actual or implied sexual violence.

**L**

**Language:** There may not be any strong language such as swear words, threats, abuse, profanity or languages of prejudice but there may be use of low impact mild language within context.

**P**

**Prejudice:** The material may not contain any scenes or language prejudice or negative stereotyping; unless, the context makes it clear that prejudice or negative stereotyping is wrong. Issues of race, gender, religion and other expressions of intolerance are resolved in a manner that not only shows respect for human dignity but will not encourage disrespectful or harmful behavior.

There will be no other impactful classifiable elements in a film classified “PG”.

**H**

**Horror:** Material only contains low impact instances or scenes of horror.

## Classifiable Elements

Material may not contain any instances of criminal techniques.

## Imitative Acts and Techniques

Material may contain instances of low impact imitative acts and techniques.



**7-9PG** rating is for material that is not suitable for children under the age of 7. A parent or caregiver may decide if the material is appropriate for children in their care from ages of 7-9 years; if it is of particular entertainment or educational value for such children. Children from the ages of 7-9 years may not be allowed to view a film classified 7-9PG unless accompanied by an adult.



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**T**

**Theme:** Themes may be complex and mature and may involve troubling social issues but are treated in a way that will not be disturbing to younger viewers in the reassuring company of an adult.

**L**

**Language:** Material may contain instances of low or mild impact language within context; but not expressions which are abusive, demeaning or prejudicial of any person or group.

**P**

**Prejudice:** The film may contain scenes or language of prejudice or negative stereotyping. However, the context makes it clear that prejudice or negative stereotyping is in an educational or historical context. Issues of race, gender, religion and other expressions of intolerance are resolved in a manner that not only shows respect for human dignity but will not encourage disrespectful or harmful behavior.

**D**

**Substance Abuse:** Material may only contain innocuous scenes of substance abuse if they are justified by the context or conveys a clear anti-substance abuse message and are of a low impact.

**N**

**Nudity:** There may be scenes of low impact nudity in natural, non-sexual context but without frontal close-ups or focus on intimate parts of the body.

**S**

**Sexual Activity:** Material may not contain any scenes of actual or implied sexual activity but may contain scene of affection within context of generally-accepted situations.

**V**

**Violence:** There may be scenes of low or mild impact violence justified by the context and, if domestic violence is present, it must be justified within context and have a strong message against it. These are brief and are neither graphic nor bloody and are within context. Violence must not be glamorised. The overall message is that violence has consequences and is not an acceptable way to resolve conflicts. Scenes of threat menace or suspense are low impact and non-threatening.

**SV**

**Sexual Violence:** Material may not contain any scenes of actual or implied sexual violence.

**H**

**Horror:** Any scenes of low impact horror must be justified by the context. Fantasy setting may, when appropriate, be regarded as reducing the impact.

## Criminal Techniques

Material may not contain any instances of criminal techniques.

## Imitative Acts and Techniques

Material may contain instances of low impact imitative acts and techniques.



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**“10” not for children under the age of 10 years.**

A film classified “10”, with or without consumer information, is considered to contain content which are potentially disturbing or harmful to children under the age of 10 years.

**T**

**Theme:** Themes may be mature and complex but outcomes clearly reinforce positive social values. The overall message is reassuring to the sense of security and well-being of children 10 years and older.

**L**

**Language:** There may be instances of low or mild impact language within context. Expressions of racial, gender or religious prejudice may occur but are within context and show that such conduct is wrong; unacceptable and demeaning and disrespectful of human dignity.

**D**

**Substance Abuse:** There may be brief scenes of only innocuous substance abuse and of low or mild impact occurring within context or carry a suitable anti-substance abuse message. There is no instructional detail and substance use is not promoted, glamorized or encouraged.

**P**

**Prejudice:** The film may contain scenes or language of prejudice or negative stereotyping. However, the context makes clear that prejudice or negative stereotyping is wrong. Issue of race, gender, religion and other expressions of intolerance are resolved in a manner that not only shows respect for human dignity but may not encourage disrespectful or harmful behavior. Prejudice may occur in an educational or historical context.

**N**

**Nudity:** There may be brief scenes of low impact nudity in natural non-sexual contexts.

**S**

**Sexual Activity:** There are no scenes of actual or implied sexual activity, but may contain scenes of affection.

**V**

**Violence:** Material may contain only low or mild impact violence justified by the content, and if domestic violence is present, it must have a strong message against it.

**SV**

**Sexual Violence:** Material may not contain any scenes of actual or implied sexual violence.

**H**

**Horror:** Any scenes of low or mild impact horror must be justified by the context. Fantasy settings may, when appropriate, be regarded as reducing the impact.

## Criminal Techniques

Material may not contain any instances of criminal techniques.

## Imitative Acts and Techniques

Material may contain instances of low impact imitative acts and techniques.





**10-12PG** rating is for material that is not suitable for children under the age of 10. A parent or caregiver may decide if the material is appropriate for children in their care from ages of 10-12, if it is of particular entertainment or educational value for such children. Children from the ages of 10-12 years may not be allowed to watch a film classified 10-12PG unless accompanied by an adult.



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**T**

**Theme:** Themes may be complex and may involve troubling social issues but are treated in a way that will not be disturbing to younger viewers in the reassuring company of an adult.

**L**

**Language:** There may be instances of mild to moderate impact language within context, but not expressions which are abusive, demeaning or prejudicial of any person or group.

**P**

**Prejudice:** The film may contain scenes or language of prejudice or negative stereotyping of low impact. However, the context makes it clear that prejudice or negative stereotyping is wrong. Issues of race, gender, religion and other expressions of intolerance are resolved in a manner that not only shows respect for human dignity but will not encourage disrespectful or harmful behavior.

**D**

**Substance Abuse:** There may be scenes of low or mild impact occurrences of substance abuse justified by context without instructional detail. But the use of drugs is neither glamorized, promoted nor encouraged and clearly conveys a suitable anti-substance abuse message.

**N**

**Nudity:** There may be scenes of low impact nudity in natural, non-sexual context but without frontal close-ups or focus on intimate parts of the body.

**S**

**Sexual Activity:** There may be brief scenes of low impact implied sexual activity, without lingering close-ups or suggestive sound effects and within the context of generally-accepted social situations.

**V**

**Violence:** There may be scenes of mild to moderate violence. These are brief and are neither graphic nor bloody and are within context. Violence is not glamorized. The overall message is that violence has consequences and is not an acceptable way to resolve conflicts. Scenes of threat menace or suspense are low impact and non-threatening. Domestic violence must be justified by context and have a strong message against it.

**SV**

**Sexual Violence:** Material may not contain any scenes of actual or implied sexual violence.

**H**

**Horror:** Any scenes of mild to moderate impact horror must be justified by the context.

Material may not contain any instances of criminal techniques.

Material may contain instances of low impact imitative acts and techniques.





An age rating of 13 is not for children under the age of 13 years.

A film rated "13" with or without consumer information, is considered to contain content that are potentially disturbing or harmful to children under the age of 13 years.

T

**Theme:** May contain complex and mature themes, exploring troubling social and moral issues but handled sensitively. However, the overall impact will reinforce positive social values.

L

**Language:** Material may contain instances of moderate impact language justified by context. Strong language, within context as part of plot or characterization, will occur. Expressions of hatred based on race, gender and religion may occur within context but are treated in a way that shows such conduct to be wrong and unacceptable.

D

**Substance Abuse:** Material may only contain low, mild or moderate impact occurrences of substance abuse and must be justified by context. Moderate impact substance abuse must contextually carry a suitable anti-substance abuse message.

P

**Prejudice:** Material may contain scenes or language of prejudice of low to mild impact if, contextually, clearly disapproved of and justified within the context, or if used in an educational or historical context.

N

**Nudity:** Material may contain instances of low to mild impact nudity and should be justified by context.

S

**Sexual Activity :** Material may contain occurrences of mild to moderate actual or implied sexual activity.

V

**Violence:** Material may contain moderate impact violence justified by context and, if domestic violence is present, it must contextually have a strong message against it.

SV

**Sexual Violence:** Material may contain scenes of low impact, implied sexual violence.

H

**Horror:** Any scenes of moderate impact horror must be justified by the context.

## Criminal Techniques

Material may not contain any instances of criminal technique.

## Imitative Acts and Techniques

Material may contain instances of mild impact imitative acts and techniques.



An age restriction of 16 is not suitable for children under the age of 16 years. A film with a “16” classification, with or without consumer information, is considered to contain material which are potentially disturbing and harmful to children under the age of 16 years.

**T**

**Theme:** Themes may be complex and mature and include troubling social or moral issues.

**L**

**Language:** Instances of strong language may be used within the context of the story as part of plot or character development.

**P**

**Substance Abuse:** Material may contain moderate instances of substance abuse if they are justified by the context. Any strong impact substance abuse must contextually convey a suitable anti-substance abuse message.

**D**

**Prejudice:** Material may contain scenes or language of prejudice of moderate impact, in a clearly disapproved context, or if depicted in an educational or historical context.

**N**

**Nudity:** Material may contain instances of moderate impact nudity and should be justified by the context.

**S**

**Sexual Activity:** Material may contain occurrences of moderate and possibly strong impact sexual activity.

**V**

**Violence:** Material may contain strong violence justified by context.

**SV**

**Sexual Violence:** Material may not contain any scenes of actual sexual violence, but sexual violence may moderately be implied, if justified by context.

**H**

**Horror:** Any scenes of strong impact horror must be justified by the context.

## Criminal Techniques

Material may contain instances of mild to moderate impact criminal techniques.

## Imitative Acts and Techniques

Material may contain instances of strong impact imitative acts of technique.



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Material rated as “18” is not suitable for children under the age of 18. Material classified as “18” is prohibited from distribution, exhibition, sale or hire to children under the age of 18. The material contains classifiable elements that have a strong impact with some elements having even a very strong impact.

L

**Language:** Material may contain instances of very strong language justified by the context.

D

**Substance Abuse:** Material may contain strong impact instances of substance abuse if justified by context.

P

**Prejudice:** Material may contain scenes or language of prejudice of strong impact, if clearly disapproved of, and if justified within context, or if used in an educational or historical context.

N

**Nudity:** Material may contain instances of strong impact nudity if justified by context.

S

**Sexual Activity:** Material may contain occurrences of strong or even very strong implied sexual activity.

V

**Violence:** Material may contain strong to very strong violence justified by context.

SV

**Sexual Violence:** Material may contain occurrences of actual moderate to strong sexual violence, if justified by context.

H

**Horror:** Any scenes of very strong horror must be justified by context.

## Criminal Techniques

Material may contain instances of moderate to strong impact criminal techniques.

Material may contain instances of very strong imitative acts and techniques.



A **classification decision** is based not on what is good for a child but on what is potentially disturbing, harmful, age-inappropriate or unsuitable for children within specified age-groups or in general.



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# HOW TO USE CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF YOUR CHILD

# 10

A classification decision is based not on what is good for a child but on what is potentially disturbing, harmful, age-inappropriate or unsuitable for children within specified age-group.

The fact that a film is rated “10V” for instance, should not be interpreted to mean that the Board recommends that the film for all children of 10 years and above.

What it means is that the Board has examined the film and found that it contained, in this example, violence at a level of frequency and intensity which is potentially disturbing or harmful to children under the age of 10 years.

The effect of that classification decision is that children under 10 years are not allowed to view that film.



## 10.1

However, a classification decision also gives information that may be used even for children older than 10 years. Parents may, for instance, be concerned about the exposure of their children to film-violence. Parents who are concerned about film-violence are therefore in the best position to discourage their children who may be older than 10 years from viewing that film because violence has been identified as an impactful element in that film.

## 10.2

Classification decisions are displayed on all materials advertising films, as well as on the cover or packaging of DVDs, Blu-Ray, 2-D and 3D computer games. Decisions may also be accessed through the Board's website at [www.fpb.gov.za](http://www.fpb.gov.za). Parents and caregivers should then check a classification decision against the guidelines to assess the suitability of that film for their children to view.



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**“actual”** means a real act that does not merely exist potentially;

**“affection”** means kissing or hugging in non-sexual contexts;

**“abuse”** means to treat in a wrong, harmful or improper way or to misuse;

**“blasphemy”** for purposes of these guidelines means insensitive, offensive, demeaning, derogatory, disrespectful or irreverent expressions about any religion that do not amount to the advocacy of hatred based on religion that constitutes incitement to cause harm and would amount to a refusable publication, film or game;

**“child pornography”** includes any image, however created, or any description of a person real or simulated, who is, or who is depicted, made to appear, look like, represented or described as being under the age of 18 years;

- a. engaged in sexual conduct;
- b. participating in, or assisting another person to participate in, sexual conduct; or

- c. showing or describing the body, or parts of the body, of such a person in a manner or in circumstances which, within context, amounts to sexual exploitation, or in such a manner that it is capable of being used for the purposes of sexual exploitation;

**“context”** means the circumstances or background of material and which should be viewed as a whole to understand the full meaning; in specific incidents, it is the circumstances or background which come before and/or after a particular incident that contribute to understanding its full meaning;

**“cultural insensitivity”** means insensitive, offensive, demeaning, derogatory, disrespectful or irreverent expressions about any cultural tradition but does not amount to the advocacy of hatred based on race or ethnicity and that constitutes incitement to cause harm;

**“domestic violence”** means depictions or descriptions of –

- a. physical abuse;
- b. sexual abuse; or

# DEFINITIONS





c. emotional, verbal and psychological abuse;

**“educational”** means the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing intellectually for mature life;

**“explicit”** means -

- a. fully and clearly expressed or demonstrated, forthright and unreserved in expression leaving nothing merely implied; or
- b. in realistic detail;

**“explicit sexual conduct”** means graphic and detailed visual presentations or descriptions of any conduct contemplated in the definition of “sexual conduct”%

**“exploitative”** means making use of someone or something for selfish or improper reasons;

**“extreme”** means to the greatest or utmost degree extending far beyond the norm;

**“extreme violence”** means exceptionally intense, graphic or prolonged scenes of violence;





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“FPB Act” means the Films and Publications Act, Act No. 65 of 1996;%

“horror” means the use of frightening elements to scare or unsettle the audience;

“impact” means the potential effect of a single classifiable element or the cumulative effect of a number of classifiable elements;%

“implied” means to involve or indicate by inference, association, or necessary consequence rather than by direct statement;%

“intensity” means the strength of the treatment or subject matter or the strength of engagement or involvement;

“mature” means relatively advanced mentally and emotionally;%

“moral harm” means desensitising to the effects of violence, degrading empathy, encouraging a dehumanised view of others, suppressing pro-social attitudes, encouraging anti-social attitudes, reinforcing unhealthy fantasies, or



eroding a sense of moral responsibility, retarding social and moral development in children, distorting a child's sense of right and wrong and limiting a child's capacity for compassion;%

**"nudity"** means an unclothed (naked) or partially clothed person, wherein partially clothed means the frontal exposure of female breasts or male or female buttocks and or genitalia;

**"parental guidance"** means the material may contain classifiable elements that may be disturbing or harmful for sensitive young viewers and that parents or caregivers are in the best position to decide whether or not a child in their care may access material classified as "PG";

**"pornography"** means explicit description or exhibition of sexual subjects or activity in publications, films and computer games, in a manner, judged contextually, intended to stimulate erotic rather than aesthetic feelings in a reasonable person;

**"prejudice"** means a pre-conceived judgment or an adverse opinion or leaning formed without

just grounds or before sufficient knowledge is gained or which is based on group stereotypes; **"sexual activity"** includes consensual kissing, caressing, embracing, and physical intimacy between two people but which does not amount to sexual conduct;%

**"sexual conduct"** includes -

- i. male genitals in a state of arousal or stimulation;
- ii. the undue display of genitals or of the anal region;
- iii. masturbation;
- iv. bestiality;
- v. sexual intercourse, whether real or simulated, including anal sexual intercourse;
- vi. sexual contact involving the direct or indirect fondling or touching of the intimate parts of a body, including the breasts, with or without any object;
- vii. the penetration of a vagina or anus with any object;
- viii. oral genital contact; or
- ix. oral anal contact;

**"sexual violence"** means conduct or acts



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contemplated in the definitions of “sexual activity”;

“sexual conduct” and “explicit sexual conduct” that are accompanied either by force or coercion, actual or threatened, or that induce fear or psychological trauma in a victim;%

“stereotype” means a set of inaccurate, simplistic generalisations about a group that allows others to categorize them and treat them accordingly;

“strong language” means crude words, threats, abuse, profanity or language that amounts to prejudice;

“substance” means chemical, psychoactive substances that are prone to be abused, including tobacco, alcohol, over-the-counter drugs, prescription drugs and substances defined in the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, 1992 (Act No. 140 of 1992), or proscribed by the Minister of Health after consultation with the Medicines Control Council;

“substance abuse” means the sustained or sporadic excessive use of substances and includes any use of illicit substances and the unlawful use of substances;%

“theme” means the message or idea(s) that indicate what the material is all about (such as crime, suicide, substance abuse, death, serious illness, racism, medical, legal or scientific, war/ conflict etc.) and is to be distinguished from “genre” (such as drama, action, sci-fi and the like);%

“threat” means an indication of impending danger or harm; and%

“violence” means any physical, psychological or verbal abuse whether self-inflicted, interpersonal or collective, including gender-based violence.

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