

## Providence Media Guidelines

We feel that there should be some written guidelines for youth leaders that pertain to all events that are sponsored by PBC or can be construed as a PBC activity. Several key reasons for having these are as follows:

- ❑ Develops consistency among the youth leaders in knowing what guidelines have been set for ALL activities.
- ❑ By sharing these guidelines with parents we are conveying a message that the youth staff is concerned about what teens watch and listen to and have set some parameters for use of this material at all PBC events and activities.
- ❑ Most of us have become “desensitized” and many times ignore offensive material in both movies and music, sometimes making poor decisions in selections of music and movies. These guidelines give the youth leader assistance in making wise choices when planning an event or when questions from youth arise.
- ❑ Some movies are very clean in content but convey messages inconsistent with the Christianity, such as cult activity, etc.

### Movies

**Recommended guidelines are not just for our sponsored Movie Nights, but also for our youth leaders to understand and abide by when the "not-quite-sponsored" events occur related to Providence groups (like a party for a Refinery group).**

We contacted several youth pastors and found this issue to be a “hot” topic that has presented problems at one time or another and have discussed the need for written guidelines for their programs. The thread that seemed consistent in these conversations is that there are many activities OTHER than movies to entertain, develop unity and provide an atmosphere where discussion can be stimulated.

Research was also done to determine what sources are available to rent/buy movies that have been edited to remove offensive language and certain scenes. “Clean Flicks” (<http://www.cleanflicks.com/>) appears to be the best current source to obtain edited movies. Another source is “Movie Mask” (<http://www.moviemask.com/>). Our suggestion is that Clean Flicks or another source is used for all movies other than “G Rated”.

**Focus on the Family has published a book, “Movie Nights: 25 Movies to Spark Spiritual Discussions with Your Teens” that may be beneficial when movies are shown.**

**Guidelines for movies:**

#### Middle School

- ❑ **MS movies must be limited to “G rated” only, unless approval has been given by a member of the youth staff that has RECENTLY viewed the movie.**
- ❑ **Use Clean Flicks or other sources for edited movies other than “G-rated”.**

#### High School

- ❑ **“NO R-rated / No PG-13” movie guideline**
- ❑ **Use Clean Flicks or other sources for edited movies whenever possible for all movies other than “G-rated”.**
- ❑ **All movies should be approved by a youth staff member who has RECENTLY seen the movie.**

### Music

It is agreed that there are secular songs that are not offensive or contrary to Christian beliefs and there may be times when a secular song may be used for outreach events that follow the theme of the event. This being the case, any secular music used must be approved by the youth staff in advance.

### SUMMARY

Rules and guidelines are only effective when the leadership is in agreement and accepts them as guidelines for their own life. If rules are only accepted because they are “rules”, our leadership will send a VERY inconsistent message to our youth.