



Information for Reconsideration Panel Members

Thank you for agreeing to be a member of the panel for a film rating appeal screening. Here is some information to assist you in your role.

What is a Reconsideration Screening?

Film distributors have the right to request a reconsideration if they feel the rating assigned by Alberta Film Classification is unduly restrictive. If a reconsideration is granted by Alberta Film Classification, a date for a reconsideration screening is set, and a panel is asked to convene to view the film and arrive at an unbiased rating that reflects “community standards” in Alberta.

What is my role as a member of the panel?

You are being asked to participate in determining the rating for a film using Alberta’s rating system, a continuum of categories related to age. These ratings are:



General (G) Suitable for viewing by all ages.



Parental Guidance (PG) Parental guidance is advised. Theme or content may not be suitable for all children.



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



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



Restricted (R) Admittance restricted to persons 18 years of age and older. Content not suitable for minors. Contains frequent sexual activity, brutal/graphic violence, intense horror and/or other disturbing content.



Adult (A) Admittance restricted to persons 18 years of age or older. Content not suitable for minors. Contains predominantly sexually explicit activity.

For more detailed information about the type of content that goes into each category and examples of recent movies in each category, please go to albertafilmratings.ca.



Why You?

- Panel members are chosen because they have some interest in, or specialized knowledge about, the people who will be most affected by a film's age rating. Panel members are eighteen or older, are often parents of children or teenagers, or may be people who work with children or youth.
- You have been chosen to share your point of view about the rating of a film as a representative of the Alberta public.
- You are being asked to assign an age rating to the film you will see based on the film's content. You will be asked to assess the content in terms of what you think is appropriate material for children at different ages and stages of their development.
- You have been asked to serve on the panel to give your opinion. Your opinion about the suitability of the content will be respected in a non-judgmental environment; however, you may be asked to support your decision with a short written statement.
- The entire reconsideration screening process takes between two to three hours, depending on the length of the film.

How should I prepare for the screening?

No special preparation is necessary, but some of the following activities may help you feel more informed about Alberta's movie rating system:

- Consider movies you have seen recently. Think about sexual content, violence, or coarse language in relation to the age ratings. If you aren't sure what the age ratings were, use the "title search" function on albertafilmratings.ca
- If you have time before attending the reconsideration screening, you may want to spend a few minutes familiarizing yourself with Alberta's movie rating system at albertafilmratings.ca
- You may decide to read the glossary of Film Rating Terms at albertafilmratings.ca for some of the terms used by film classifiers to describe the content in the film you will see.

When you arrive for the screening:

- A staff member will show you to the screening room, introduce you to the other panel members, and provide you with any materials you will need.
- A staff member will conduct a quick overview of Alberta's movie rating system.
- In order to ensure that the panel's decision is unbiased, the staff at AFC will not discuss the rating that is being reconsidered; however, staff will be happy to answer any questions you have about the rating system or the reconsideration process.



What happens during the screening?

- You will be an active viewer as you watch the film, taking note of content elements such as coarse language, sexual and violent content, or other content that some viewers may find objectionable.
- You do not need to bring anything with you. You will be provided with a clipboard, paper, a pamphlet on the rating system, and a pen.

When the film is over:

- Reconsideration panel members will be given some time to look over their notes and make a decision about the rating.
- You will be asked to fill in a form stating the rating you think is most appropriate and give some reasons in writing to support your opinion.
- When all of the panel members have finished writing, a short, facilitated discussion will take place. During this time, panel members are welcome to share their views with one another and ask each other questions.
- The facilitating staff member will tally up the results of the individual decisions and inform the panel of the final rating for the film.
- After the panel members leave, the distributor will be informed about the decision. Your name will not be connected to your vote in any way. Your privacy is protected by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIP).



How to find us:

Alberta Film Classification is located in the south-east corner of the Whitemud Crossing shopping complex. We are in the same building as the Whitemud Branch of the Edmonton Public Library.

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