

# Hollywood Becomes a Reluctant Bedfellow of the Moral Right

-- *The Copyright Act of 2005*

On Wednesday, April 27, the President signed into law the "Family Entertainment and Copyright Act of 2005." The Act makes it a violation of federal law (punishable by up to 3-6 years in jail) for an individual to use camcorders and the like to copy movies being shown in a theater. Hollywood has wanted this law for years. But the Act also makes it legal for companies to sell censoring technology to consumers that will enable the consumers to delete objectionable portions of movies without modifying the actual copy of the movie they bought. Hollywood has always resisted any technology that enables consumers to copy the music and movie recordings it sells to consumers. In effect, Hollywood yielded on an issue that Congress and the moral right had turned into a family values issue (i.e., deleting offensive portions of movies) in order to add an important new weapon to the arsenal Hollywood has to combat movie counterfeiters who take real money out of Hollywood's pockets.



So who really made out like a bandit by the passage of this legislation? Utah Senator Orrin Hatch and other legislators who supported this bill can tout its passage as a major win for family values. But another major winner is a small company ClearPlay. This company has developed technology that enables consumers, who buy specially equipped DVD players (that just happen to be sold

by ClearPlay), to buy software downloads from ClearPlay that will delete out certain categories of offensive portions of movies (you can choose among categories like: sex, violence, profanity, and "vain reference to deity") whenever the consumer wants to show a watered down/ cleaned-up version of the movie to the kiddies or others whom the consumer doesn't think should see certain scenes. PLEASE NOTE, however, that: a) the consumer is limited to controlling only those movies for which ClearPlay has decided to make filtering software, and b) the consumer has to depend on what scenes of a movie the editorial board at ClearPlay thinks fits into each category of offensiveness.)

Senator Hatch, who has a long record of supporting family values legislation, introduced the Family Entertainment and Copyright Act of 2005. It also just so happens that ClearPlay is one of his constituents, and this legislation is likely to make moot the lawsuit Steven Spielberg and other famous directors and large movie studios brought against ClearPlay for copyright infringement after ClearPlay announced the availability of its new, specially equipped DVD players and filtering services over a year ago. You can learn more about ClearPlay and its consumer offerings at [www.clearplay.com](http://www.clearplay.com).

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