





STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

October 8, 2020

**TO:** All Superintendents and Work Release Supervisors  
**FROM:**    
Arminda Miller and Ronna Cole  
Prisons/Health Services Incident Commanders  
**SUBJECT:** Swank contract extended to all correctional facilities through June 30, 2021

Several months ago, in an effort to provide additional activities for the incarcerated population during times of limited movement and available programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Washington State Department of Corrections expanded its contract with Swank to include additional correctional and work/training release facilities. Swank provides movie licensing to some correctional facilities, colleges, K-12 schools, public libraries and other entities that want to show films legally on their property.

Before the agency pursued expansion of the contract, policy limited the showing of movies under the Swank license to reception centers only. COVID-19 restrictions to programming, visiting and other privileges warranted reconsideration of the contract the agency had with Swank to allow movies to be shown at other facilities across the state.

According to the Federal Copyright Act, copyrighted materials like movies can only be shown in a public place if they're properly licensed. Our contracts allow us to continue to show commercial motion pictures to incarcerated individual audiences within our prisons and work release facilities, consistent with [DOC policy 540.200](#), and compliant with copyright law. These licenses do not pay for the movie rentals or purchases themselves, but instead cover the license to legally show these movies in a public setting.

The department recently made the decision to extend the contracts for correctional and work release facilities from Oct. 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, due to continued COVID-19 related privilege restrictions. The expansion of these licenses is temporary and we will reevaluate next year to determine the appropriateness of continuing beyond June 2021.

If you haven't been using these licenses already, you can check to see if the movie you want to show is covered under our license using Swank's movie search tool on its corrections market page: <https://www.swank.com/correctional/faq>. If the film title appears, it is covered under the annual public performance site license.

As we continue to work through the challenges we face due to COVID-19, we hope this temporary enhancement helps reduce idleness and encourages positive engagement among the incarcerated population. Thank you for everything you do!

***"Working Together for SAFER Communities"***