The Law of Ukraine

On Cinematography

Date of Entry into Force:
February 12, 1998

The Law defines legal principles of activity in the field of cinematography and regulates public relations connected with production, distribution, storage and show of films.

Pursuant to the Law, cinematography is a field of culture that unites the complex of professional activities related to production, distribution, storage and show of films, scientific and academic work in this area.

By type of activity subjects of cinematography are divided as regards to:

- creation of films: authors and performers;
- film production: film studios, video studios, studios, producers, etc.;
- film distribution: producers, distributors of films, movie copying enterprises, film funds, archives of film-, photo-, phono-documents, etc.;
- show of films: cinemas, film devices, video devices, broadcasting TV channels;
- training of professional staff: specialized educational establishments of cinematography as well as specialized faculties in other educational establishments regardless of ownership form;
- development and production of technological equipment: scientific research, design institutions, service centers, associations, production enterprises and other legal entities regardless of ownership form.

Pursuant to the Law, entrepreneurial activity in the field of cinematography may be carried out through the system of producers.

Distribution and show of films in Ukraine shall be conducted in compliance with technical standards, norms and rules of distribution and show of films which are approved by the central body of executive power in the field of cinematography. Before showing in Ukraine foreign films shall be dubbed, soundtracked or subtitled in the state language. The procedure of film distribution shall be determined by the agreement concluded by the film distributor with the authors of film or the person who has exclusive right to the film.

The right to distribution and show of films on all types of image carriers shall be granted to subjects of cinematography by the central body of executive power in the field of cinematography. The document which certifies this right and defines conditions of distribution and show shall be the state certificate to the right of distribution and show of films.

Article 19 of the Law stipulates measures to support subjects of cinematography by the state.
In order to promote production of domestic films and ensure access of audience to works of domestic cinematographic heritage the quota of domestic films broadcast is established. Such quota estimates not less than 30 percent of domestic broadcasting time. This quota shall be compulsory for all film broadcasters in cinema-, video-network and on broadcasting TV channels of Ukraine.