

## Copyright dos and don'ts for Festivals in Vermont

### The Plays:

1. If you are doing a non-royalty play, you do not need to have any paper work.

Non-royalty plays include Shakespeare, student written plays; old translated versions of non-English scripts such as Greek plays, French plays, etc. Be careful with translations because they are covered and royalties needed to be paid. Some playwrights who have been dead for seventy or more years are now non-royalty but you have to check because some have estates that are in effect.

2. If you are doing a play as written with no changes you must submit proof of royalty payment.
3. If you are cutting a longer play you must submit proof of permission to cut the play and a copy of the approved script.
4. If you have made changes in gender, number of actors, lines, etc. you must submit proof of permission to make these changes.
5. If you have deleted words or lines or actions that are considered inappropriate for high school students you must submit proof of permission to make these changes and a copy of the altered script.
6. In some instances you may get permission to delete lines to create a play that fits a time limit and the publishing house or playwright will give you blanket permission. In this case you need to submit a letter, which states you have permission to cut for time.

All submissions must be made to the regional festival host who will forward it on to Bill Vinton if you make it to states. No one will be allowed to perform without proof of royalty payment. This is a legal issue. By not following these rules you put yourself, your school, the host school and the VDC at jeopardy.

### Music used in plays:

1. Music played live by students may not be subject to royalty payments. You need to check with the publisher of the sheet music if they want payment for the intellectual rights.
2. Student written or adult written music may be performed without royalty payments.
3. Recorded music that is longer than 30 seconds is subject to royalty payments and/or written permission. The company to contact is BMI. You must have a letter for any music you use in your play. This needs to be submitted at the same time as the royalty proof.
4. Recorded music that is altered by 20% is not subject to royalty.