

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR DECISION

Under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act)

HEADNOTE

Title of publication:	Precious: Based On The Novel Push By Sapphire
Other known title(s):	Push: Based On The Novel By Sapphire
OFLC ref:	0901838.000
Medium:	DVD
Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
Descriptive note:	Violence, sexual violence, offensive language and content that may disturb.
Display conditions:	None

Precious: Based On The Novel Push By Sapphire is classified as objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years. This restriction is because of the way the feature deals with violence and cruelty including sexual abuse.

The publication is a DVD containing a feature which will be released as a film. The feature, based on a cult novel, is set in 1987 and focuses on Precious, a pregnant African-American 16-year-old. Precious is physically and psychologically abused by her mother, and flashbacks indicate that her now absent father sexually abused her, resulting in two pregnancies. After Precious starts going to an alternative school she finds the strength to change her life and move away from her mother. Soul and pop music plays at times, especially during shots of Precious's fantasies.

Under s3(1) of the FVPC Act the feature deals with sex, crime, cruelty and violence. In Precious's world sex is dangerous. It is connected with abuse and violence, as discussed below. Precious's mother talks about sex a lot, using blunt terms. She accuses Precious of "fucking around" with her man and tells her that she and her boyfriend never "did it up in the ass".

The feature deals with crime including sexual, physical and psychological abuse, theft and fraud. The abuse and fraud is presented as being inherently wrong. At one point Precious steals food from a fast food restaurant, which appears to be driven by desperation and lack of money rather than malice.

Violence and cruelty including sexual abuse are discussed below under s3(3)(a)(i) and s3(3)(a)(ii). The publication does not contain any matters that require discussion under s3(2) of the FVPC Act.

Sections 3(3)(a)(i) and 3(3)(a)(ii) of the FVPC Act relate to the extent and degree to which, and the manner in which, the publication describes, depicts or otherwise deals with the infliction of

serious physical harm, acts of significant cruelty and sexual violence. At the beginning of the feature Precious is the target of many bullies. The strongest acts of physical violence and psychological cruelty are performed by her mother. She controls her through violence, threats of violence, and breaking down her confidence. Early in the feature she throws objects at Precious's head, tells her she is stupid and she should have aborted her, and forces her to eat heavy fried food though she is not hungry. Precious also tells a social worker that she gave birth to her first child on the kitchen floor while her mother kicked her. The effect of this treatment on Precious is indicated when her teacher Blu helps her learn to read: Precious can barely hear Blu's voice over the sounds (in her head) of her mother shouting at her, her father's heavy breathing, and a slapping noise.

Precious's mother is also abusive to others. She treats Precious's first child, who has Down's Syndrome, with contempt and later drops Precious's baby Abdul deliberately. At this point Precious fights back against her mother by pushing her against a wall and then breaking her prized television. By the end of the story Precious is able to show compassion for others; she gives her scarf away to a child with a black eye, and she appears determined to care for her own children.

She has also managed to escape from sexual mistreatment. In an early sequence the viewer sees Precious lying on her back on a bed, and brief shots establish that a man is pulling at her clothes. He lies on top of her, as the camera focuses on Precious's face. The sequence then moves to Precious's dreamlife, as she envisions herself as a beloved celebrity. It is only later comments about how Precious's father "gave" her this baby and "the one before it" that reveal that the abuse is incestuous.

Precious's mother is complicit in the sexual abuse, having done nothing to protect her daughter. In a final confrontation with Precious while a social worker watches she attempts to explain her perspective. She says that the abuse began when Precious was 3 years old and her father Carl reached over and touched Precious, saying that it was good for her. She doubted that it was abuse because Precious didn't scream, and is can only feel anger towards her daughter because she took Carl away from her.

It is subtly implied that Precious's mother also sexually abuses her. The viewer sees Precious's mother in bed and her panting, and the movement under the bedclothes indicate that she is masturbating. She calls out to Precious to "come take care of Mommy". Though nothing more is seen the implication is clear.

In another scene Precious is sexually heckled by a group of men on the street. She ignores them, but one of the men pushes her over.

All of this material is difficult to watch but it effectively explains how difficult it is for Precious to escape her situation. It is only after Precious starts confiding in sympathetic women, including her social worker and her teacher, that she is able to find perspective. Precious tells Blu that "Love beat me, raped me, called me an animal", and Blu has to explain to her that she is not talking about love.

In terms of s3A of the FVPC Act the feature contains some highly offensive language including "fuck", "slut" and "whore". This supports the need to restrict the feature's availability to older audiences.

The dominant effect of the feature as a whole is of an emotionally powerful story with an uplifting message. The actors deliver strong performances, and the feature is touted to be a contender for film awards. Because of its clear message, hard-hitting emotional feel and teenage heroine the feature is likely to appeal particularly to older teenage girls. It is also likely to appeal to mainstream audiences interested in stories about people and emotions.

A restriction on the publication's availability is due to its treatment of matters of violence including sexual violence, cruelty and crime. The treatment of sexual, physical and psychological abuse in the feature is likely to upset most viewers. The maturity and experience and older teenagers and adults possess enables them to place these elements into the context of the feature as a whole, which is actually about a girl's successful battle to escape abuse. Younger audiences, on the other hand, are likely to be upset by the depictions of abuse, and to carry these impressions with them, causing nightmares and persistent upsetting thoughts. For these reasons, the publication is restricted to an audience aged 16 years of age and over.


Note:

Copyright Office of Film and Literature Classification. This document may be reproduced in whole but not in part without written permission except for brief quotations embodied in articles, reports or reviews.

CONSIDERATION SHEET

OFLC ref:	0901838.000
Submission channel:	s12(1)

Title of publication:	Precious: Based On The Novel Push By Sapphire
Other known title:	Push: Based On The Novel By Sapphire
Medium:	DVD
Distributor:	Hoyts Distribution NZ Ltd
Director:	Lee Daniels
Producer:	Sarah Siegel-Magness Gary Magness
Country of origin:	United States
Language:	English
Applicant:	Film & Video Labelling Body

Examination transcript No:	501 pp285
Examination date:	18 January 2010
Classification Officer(s):	

Other identifying information:

COMPONENTS OF FILM**Components of film originally examined:**

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	Precious: Based On The Novel Push By Sapphire	109:22
Total running time:		109:22

Components of film excised:

EXAMINATION

Section 23 Examination and classification –

...the Classification Office shall examine the publication to determine the classification of the publication.

Section 24 Soundtrack to be considered -

Where a film is intended to be viewed with an accompanying soundtrack (whether or not the soundtrack is an integral part of the film), an examination of the film under s23 of the Act shall also take into account the content of the soundtrack and its relationship to the film.

Description of Publication:

The publication is a DVD containing a feature which will be released as a film. The feature, based on a cult novel, is set in 1987 and focuses on Precious, a pregnant African-American 16-year-old. Precious is physically and psychologically abused by her mother, and flashbacks indicate that her now absent father sexually abused her, resulting in two pregnancies. After Precious starts going to an alternative school she finds the strength to change her life and move away from her mother. Soul and pop music plays at times, especially during shots of Precious's fantasies.

Statutory Submissions

Section 20 – Synopsis of Written Submissions

Not Applicable	X
----------------	----------

Section 21 Other Assistance

None Requested	X
See Record of Assistance	

Other Relevant Information

None Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
-----------------	-------------------------------------

In reaching a classification decision the Classification Office may consider a variety of information including **previous decisions** of the Classification Office or other **ensorship bodies, research, books, articles, reviews,** and information obtained from the **Internet**. If you have used any of this information please record this below.

Previous decisions				
Classification Body	OFLC	<input type="checkbox"/>	VRA	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Chief Censor of Film	<input type="checkbox"/>	IPT	<input type="checkbox"/>
Title:				
Publication/Certificate/Decision No.				

Other Sources (please specify and reference):

CLASSIFICATION

Section 3 Meaning of “objectionable”-

s3(1) ... a publication is objectionable if it describes, depicts, expresses, or otherwise deals with matters such as sex, horror, crime, cruelty, or violence in such a manner that the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good.

Subject Matter Gateway

The Court of Appeal's interpretation of the words "matters such as sex, horror, crime, cruelty or violence" in s3(1), as set out in *Living Word Distributors v Human Rights Action Group (Wellington)* [2000] 3 NZLR 570; (2000) 6 HRNZ 28, must also be taken in to account in the classification of any publication:

[27] The words "matters such as" in context are both expanding and limiting. They expand the qualifying content beyond a bare focus on one of the five categories specified. But the expression "such as" is narrower than "includes", which was the term used in defining "indecent" in the repealed Indecent Publications Act 1963. Given the similarity of the content description in the successive statutes, "such as" was a deliberate departure from the unrestricting "includes".

[28] The words used in s3 limit the qualifying publications to those that can fairly be described as dealing with matters of the kinds listed. In that regard, too, the collocation of words "sex, horror, crime, cruelty or violence", as the matters dealt with, tends to point to activity rather than to the expression of opinion or attitude.

[29] That, in our view, is the scope of the subject matter gateway.

The content of the publication must bring it within the "subject matter gateway". In classifying the publication therefore, the question is whether or not it deals with the following:

Matters such as sex

Included as a "matter such as sex" is any publication that in terms of s3(1A) –

- (a) ... is or contains 1 or more visual images of 1 or more children or young persons who are nude or partially nude; and
- (b) those 1 or more visual images are, alone, or together with any other contents of the publication, reasonably capable of being regarded as sexual in nature.

In Precious's world sex is dangerous. It is connected with abuse and violence, as discussed below. Precious's mother talks about sex a lot, using blunt terms. She accuses Precious of "fucking around" with her man and tells her that she and her boyfriend never "did it up in the ass".

Matters such as horror

N/A

Matters such as crime

The feature deals with crime including sexual, physical and psychological abuse, theft and fraud. The abuse and fraud is presented as being inherently wrong. At one point Precious steals food from a fast food restaurant, which appears to be driven by desperation and lack of money rather than malice.

Matters such as cruelty

Discussed in association with violence below under s3(3)(a)(i).

Matters such as violence

Discussed in association with cruelty below under s3(3)(a)(i).

Or – The content of the publication does not bring it within any "subject matter gateway".

For publications that fall outside the "subject matter gateway" go to s3A and s3B

Section 3(2) Certain publications are deemed to be objectionable –

Under s3(2) of the FVPC Act, a publication is deemed to be objectionable if it promotes or supports, or tends to promote or support, certain activities listed in that subsection.

In *Moonen v Film and Literature Board of Review (Moonen I)*, the Court of Appeal stated that the words "promotes or supports" must be given "such available meaning as impinges as little as possible on the freedom of expression"¹ in order to be consistent with the Bill of Rights. The Court then set out how a publication may come within a definition of "promotes or supports" in s3(2) that impinges as little as possible on the freedom of expression:

Description and depiction ... of a prohibited activity do not of themselves necessarily amount to promotion of or support for that activity. There must be something about the way the prohibited activity is described, depicted or otherwise dealt with, which can fairly be said to have the effect of promoting or supporting that activity.²

Mere depiction or description of any of the s3(2) matters will generally not be enough to deem a publication to be objectionable under s3(2). When used in conjunction with an activity, the Classification Office defines "promote" to mean the advancement or encouragement of that activity. The Classification Office interprets the word "support" to mean the upholding and strengthening of something so that it is more likely to endure. A publication must therefore advance, encourage, uphold or strengthen, rather than merely depict, describe or deal with, one of the matters listed in s3(2) for it to be deemed to be objectionable under that provision.

s3(2)(a) The exploitation of children, or young persons, or both, for sexual purposes.

In *Moonen v Film and Literature Board of Review (Moonen II)* [2002] 2 NZLR 754, the Court of Appeal stated that the absence of definitions of "young persons" and "children" in s3(2)(a) was deliberate. The provision does not require proof of the models' ages; it requires an assessment of whether or not the publication in which the models appear promotes or supports the exploitation of children or young persons for sexual purposes:

The legislation is concerned with the vulnerability of young people and with the corrosive injury to the public good of depicting persons perceived to be children or young people as subjects for exploitation. The Board properly assessed whether the publication of the photographs would tend to promote or support the exploitation of children or young

¹ *Moonen v Film and Literature Board of Review* [2000] 2 NZLR 9 at para 27.

² Above n2 at para 29.

persons, not limited to the impact on the particular persons photographed. The inquiry under s3 does not require the ascertainment of the precise age of the person photographed.³

It was Parliament's intention therefore that s3(2)(a) should apply to any publication as defined in the Act, that promotes, supports, or tends to promote or support, the exploitation of children or young persons for sexual purposes. As long as a publication at least tends to promote or support such exploitation, whether or not it depicts underage models, no underage models or no models at all is irrelevant to the proper application of s3(2)(a). The issue is whether, on the evidence presented by the publication itself, the publication at least tends to promote or support the exploitation of children or young persons for sexual purposes.

N/A

s3(2)(b) The use of violence or coercion to compel any person to participate in, or submit to, sexual conduct.

N/A

s3(2)(c) Sexual conduct with or upon the body of a dead person.

N/A

s3(2)(d) The use of urine or excrement in association with degrading or dehumanising conduct or sexual conduct.

N/A

s3(2)(e) Bestiality.

N/A

s3(2)(f) Acts of torture or the infliction of extreme violence or extreme cruelty.

N/A

If the publication promotes and supports, or tends to promote and support, any of the 3(2) provisions above and is deemed objectionable go to the Bill of Rights section.

However, section 32 of the FVPC Act directs the Classification Office to consider whether it would classify the publication differently if the material falling under s3(2) were excised or altered. If an excision were made, the publication would no longer fall under 3(2) of the FVPC Act. If the publication contains material that falls under 3(2) which can be excised or altered, go the Excisions section and then return to s3(3) and 3(4) below.

Otherwise, if the publication does not fall under s3(2) consider the following matters:

Section 3(3) Matters to be given particular weight –

In determining, for the purposes of the Act, whether or not any publication (other than a publication to which subsection 3(2) of this section applies) is objectionable or should in accordance with section 23(2) be given a classification other than objectionable, the following matters shall also be considered:

...particular weight shall be given to the **extent** and **degree** to which, and the **manner** in which, the publication describes, depicts, or otherwise deals with...

s3(3)(a)(i) Acts of torture, the infliction of serious physical harm, or acts of significant cruelty.

³ *Moonen v Film and Literature Board of Review* [2002] 2 NZLR 754 at para 40.

and

s3(3)(a)(ii) Sexual violence or sexual coercion, or violence or coercion in association with sexual conduct.

At the beginning of the feature Precious is the target of many bullies. The strongest acts of physical violence and psychological cruelty are performed by her mother. She controls her through violence, threats of violence, and breaking down her confidence. Early in the feature she throws objects at Precious's head, tells her she is stupid and she should have aborted her, and forces her to eat heavy fried food though she is not hungry. Precious also tells a social worker that she gave birth to her first child on the kitchen floor while her mother kicked her. The effect of this treatment on Precious is indicated when her teacher Blu helps her learn to read: Precious can barely hear Blu's voice over the sounds (in her head) of her mother shouting at her, her father's heavy breathing, and a slapping noise.

Precious's mother is also abusive to others. She treats Precious's first child, who has Down's Syndrome, with contempt and later drops Precious's baby Abdul deliberately. At this point Precious fights back against her mother by pushing her against a wall and then breaking her prized television. By the end of the story Precious is able to show compassion for others; she gives her scarf away to a child with a black eye, and she appears determined to care for her own children.

She has also managed to escape from sexual mistreatment. In an early sequence the viewer sees Precious lying on her back on a bed, and brief shots establish that a man is pulling at her clothes. He lies on top of her, as the camera focuses on Precious's face. The sequence then moves to Precious's dreamlife, as she envisions herself as a beloved celebrity. It is only later comments about how Precious's father "gave" her this baby and "the one before it" that reveal that the abuse is incestuous.

Precious's mother is complicit in the sexual abuse, having done nothing to protect her daughter. In a final confrontation with Precious while a social worker watches she attempts to explain her perspective. She says that the abuse began when Precious was 3 years old and her father Carl reached over and touched Precious, saying that it was good for her. She doubted that it was abuse because Precious didn't scream, and is can only feel anger towards her daughter because she took Carl away from her.

It is subtly implied that Precious's mother also sexually abuses her. The viewer sees Precious's mother in bed and her panting, and the movement under the bedclothes indicate that she is masturbating. She calls out to Precious to "come take care of Mommy". Though nothing more is seen the implication is clear.

In another scene Precious is sexually heckled by a group of men on the street. She ignores them, but one of the men pushes her over.

All of this material is difficult to watch but it effectively explains how difficult it is for Precious to escape her situation. It is only after Precious starts confiding in sympathetic women, including her social worker and her teacher, that she is able to find perspective. Precious tells Blu that "Love beat me, raped me, called me an animal", and Blu has to explain to her that she is not talking about love.

s3(3)(a)(iii) Other sexual or physical conduct of a degrading or dehumanising or demeaning nature.

N/A

s3(3)(a)(iv) Sexual conduct with or by children, or young persons, or both.

N/A

s3(3)(a)(v) Physical conduct in which sexual satisfaction is derived from inflicting or suffering cruelty or pain.

N/A

...particular weight shall be given to the **extent** and **degree** to which, and the **manner** in which, the publication

s3(3)(b) Exploits the nudity of children or young persons, or both.

N/A

s3(3)(c) Degrades, dehumanises or demeans any person.

N/A

s3(3)(d) Promotes or encourages criminal acts or acts of terrorism.

N/A

s3(3)(e) Represents (whether directly or by implication) that members of any particular class of the public are inherently inferior to other members of the public by reason of any characteristic of members of that class, being a characteristic that is a prohibited ground of discrimination specified in section 21(1) of the Human Rights Act 1993.⁴

N/A

3A Publication may be age-restricted if it contains highly offensive language likely to cause serious harm

3A(1) A publication to which subsection 3A(2) applies may be classified as a restricted publication under section 23(2)(c)(i).

3A(2) This subsection applies to a publication that contains highly offensive language to such an extent or degree that the availability of the publication would be likely, if not restricted to persons who have attained a specified age, to cause serious harm to persons under that age.

*3A(3) In this section, **highly offensive language** means language that is highly offensive to the public in general.*

Some highly offensive language including “fuck”, “slut” and “whore”. Requires restriction to audiences over the age of 16 years.

3B Publication may be age-restricted if likely to be injurious to public good for specified reasons

3B(2) This subsection applies to a publication that contains material specified in subsection (3) to such an extent or degree that the availability of the publication would, if not restricted to persons who have attained a specified age, be likely to be injurious to the public good for any or all of the reasons specified in subsection (4).

3B(3) The material referred to in subsection (2) is material that

3B(3)(a) describes, depicts, expresses, or otherwise deals with—

⁴ The grounds of discrimination prohibited by s21(1) of the Human Rights Act 1993 are sex, marital status, religious belief, ethical belief, colour, race, ethnic or national origins, disability, age, political opinion, employment status, family status and sexual orientation.

- 3B(3)(a)(i) *Harm to a person's body whether it involves infliction of pain or not (for example, self-mutilation or similarly harmful body modification) or self-inflicted death.*
- 3B(3)(a)(ii) *Conduct that, if imitated, would pose a real risk of serious harm to self or others or both.*
- 3B(3)(a)(iii) *Physical conduct of a degrading or dehumanising or demeaning nature.*
- 3B(3)(b) *is or includes 1 or more visual images—*
- 3B(3)(b)(i) *of a person's body; and*
- 3B(3)(b)(ii) *that, alone, or together with any other contents of the publication, are of a degrading or dehumanising or demeaning nature.*
- N/A

3B(4) The reasons referred to in subsection (2) are that the general levels of emotional and intellectual development and maturity of persons under the specified age mean that the availability of the publication to those persons would be likely to—

- 3B(4)(a) *Cause them to be greatly disturbed or shocked; or*
- 3B(4)(b) *Increase significantly the risk of them killing, or causing serious harm to, themselves, others, or both; or*
- 3B(4)(c) *Encourage them to treat or regard themselves, others, or both, as degraded or dehumanised or demeaned.*
- N/A

3C Procedure for classification under sections 3A and 3B

In determining whether to classify a publication as a restricted publication in accordance with section 3A or section 3B, the Classification Office must consider the matters specified in paragraphs (a) to (f) of section 3(4).

Section 3(4) Additional matters to be considered –

In determining, for the purposes of the Act, whether or not any publication (other than a publication to which subsection 3(2) of this section applies) is objectionable or should in accordance with section 23(2) be given a classification other than objectionable, the following matters shall also be considered:

- s3(4)(a) *The dominant effect of the publication as a whole.*
The dominant effect of the feature as a whole is of an emotionally powerful story with an uplifting message.
- s3(4)(b) *The impact of the medium in which the publication is presented.*
The impact of the feature will be enhanced by being shown as a film because its soundtrack and imagery will be emphasised.
- s3(4)(c) *The character of the publication, including any merit, value or importance it has in relation to literary, artistic, social, cultural, educational, scientific or other matters.*
Strong performances, and touted to be a contender for film awards.

Classification

s3(4)(d) The persons, classes of persons, or age groups of the persons to whom the publication is intended or is likely to be made available.

Because of its clear message, hard-hitting emotional feel and teenage heroine the feature is likely to appeal particularly to older teenage girls. Also likely to appeal to mainstream audiences interested in stories about people and emotions.

s3(4)(e) The purpose for which the publication is intended to be used.

Entertainment.

s3(4)(f) Any other relevant circumstances relating to the intended or likely use of the publication.

None.

BILL OF RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990

Section 14 Freedom of expression -

Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and opinions of any kind in any form.

Section 5 Justified limitations -

Subject to section 4 of this Bill of Rights, the rights and freedoms contained in this Bill of Rights may be subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

Section 6 Interpretation consistent with Bill of Rights to be preferred -

Wherever an enactment can be given a meaning consistent with the rights and freedoms contained in this Bill of Rights, that meaning shall be preferred to any other meaning.

Discussion of Bill of Rights Considerations:

Considerations under s3(1), s3(3)(a)(i) and 3(3)(a)(ii) of the FVPC Act have been weighed against the right to freedom of expression set out in s14 of the NZBR Act. The Classification Office considers that the DVD's treatment of matters of violence including sexual violence and cruelty render it likely to cause injury to the public good unless restricted to an audience of older teenagers and adults. This restriction is consistent with the NZBR Act and is the minimum restriction that can be applied on the DVD in order to prevent harm to the public good.

CONCLUSION

Injury

If s3(1) applies to the publication the question is whether or not it deals with the matters discussed in a manner that **the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good**. In discussing injury consider the nature and severity of that injury, the likelihood of it occurring and who would be injured by the publication's availability. The classification recommended must remedy the injury identified.

If s3B applies to the publication, **the injury to the public good** must be explained in terms of s3B(4) of the FVPC Act.

If s3A applies to the publication, explain the age restriction in terms of **how the language is likely to cause serious harm to persons under the age of the restriction**.

A restriction on the publication's availability is due to its treatment of matters of violence including sexual violence, cruelty and crime. The treatment of sexual, physical and psychological abuse in the feature is likely to upset most viewers. The increased maturity and experience and older teenagers and adults possess enables them to place these elements into the context of the feature as a whole, which is actually about a girl's successful battle to escape abuse. Younger audiences, on the other hand, are likely to be upset by the depictions of abuse, and to carry these impressions with them, causing nightmares and persistent upsetting thoughts. For these reasons, the publication is restricted to an audience aged 16 years of age and over.

EXCISIONS/ ALTERATIONS

Section 32 - Excisions from and alterations to film –

In the case of a film submitted for classification under any part of the Act other than s29(1) and 41(3) (court referrals), if the Classification is of the opinion that it would classify the film differently according to whether any specified part or parts of the film are excised from or left in the film, it shall, before making a final determination in respect of the classification of the film, follow the procedure prescribed by section 33.

Section 33(1) directs the Classification Office to notify the authorised distributor of the film of the classification that would be given if part or parts of the film were excised or altered, and, the classification that would be given if the specified part or parts were not excised or altered.

Section 33(5) provides that, in deciding whether or not to propose excisions or alterations, the Classification Office may consider the effect that any such excision or alteration may have on the continuity of the film or on its overall effect.

EXCISIONS SUMMARY	
None (for non-moving image and s29(1) / 41(3) publications)	<input type="checkbox"/>
No excisions recommended (for all other moving image publications)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Excisions/alterations recommended	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number of Excisions/Alterations:	
Brief Description:	

PUBLIC DISPLAY CONDITIONS

Not Applicable	
----------------	--

Section 27 Conditions relating to the display of restricted publications –

Where the Classification Office classifies any publication as restricted, the Office shall in every case consider whether or not to impose conditions on the public display of that publication, and may impose such conditions at the time of classifying the publication.

In determining whether or not conditions in respect of public display should be imposed, the Classification Office must have regard to:

s27(2)(a) The reasons for classifying the publication as a restricted publication.

Because of how it deals with violence, including sexual violence, and cruelty.

s27(2)(b) The terms of the classification given to the publication.

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

s27(2)(c) The likelihood that the public display of the publication, if not subject to conditions or, as the case may be, any particular condition, would cause offence to reasonable members of the public.

The title is inoffensive when seen in isolation. No display conditions are necessary.

Section 27(3) directs that where the Classification Office considers that the public display of the publication, if not subject to conditions under this section, would be likely to cause offence to reasonable members of the public, the Classification Office shall, at the time of classifying the publication, impose such conditions under this section in respect of the public display of that publication as it considers necessary to avoid the causing of such offence.

Date	18/01/10	VLC Ref	0901838
Applicant	FVLB		
Applicant Address	Dorling Kindersley Hoyts Distribution		
Title (Original)	Precious: Based On The Novel Push By Sapphire		
Other Title	Push: Based On The Novel By Sapphire		
Director/s	Lee Daniels		
Producer/s	Sarah Siegel-Magness, Gary Magness		
System Format	DVD	Country of Origin	United States
Language/s	English		

Classification	R16
Descriptive	Violence, sexual violence, offensive language and other content that may disturb
Excision/s	N/A
Total Running Time	109.22
Total Running Time after Excisions	N/A

- 0.09 logo @ bottom of screen
- 0.24 credits red on black
- 0.52 Push Based On The Novel by Sapphire
ulside of bridge, traffic noise
- 1.02 quote "Everything is a gift of the universe"
- 1.16 dream-like ♀ in red dress, younger ♀ in purple clothing. AP - Am
- 1.27 Harlem 1987
v/lover "My name is Clarice Precious Jones high school. Noisy. She wants to be normal"

- 2.55 "fuck up". C.P.J. confronts ♂. Teacher calls her Precious. She = called to Principal of fice. Students make rude noises as she lves.
- 4.53 principal asks her if she = pregnant (with 2nd child) @ 16 y - , still in junior h.s.
- 5.44 P. ≠ talk much, won't explain. Principal wants to know what happens @ home.
- 6.35 P. @ home - dark. Mother throws obj. @ back of her head, ♂ pulls P.'s clothes off as she lies on bed (impress'n) i/cut w. frying food
- 6.59 implied rape - ♂ on top of her, her upset face - she imagines being a photographed celeb.
- 7.48 mother throw water over her face.
- 8.07 P. fries food. "motherfucker".
- 9.25 "white bitch. fr. school" outside P. has to send her away. mother ≠ want to lose welfare.
- 10.38 details of alternative school
- 11.11 mother pushes her, hits wall w. fy par. P. lves "i'm... school ain't gonna help none... just he's gonna give you more children than he gave me."
- 12.18 mother yells @ P. "you're a dummy, bitch. you fucked around with my man disabled child?"
- 13.24 "I should a aborted yr motherfuckin' ass"
- 13.44 she chases P., sound of struggle.

- 14.12 cuts to mother; posing in front of tv
P. imagines her mother as a caring
nurturer.
- 16.15 P. going to school in morning. Bldg
which holds alternative school.
- 18.19 P. talks to ♀ @ school. P. struggles
with tests.
- 20.09 P. walks thru city. ♂s heckle her, 1
pushes her over.
- 20.58 she dreams of posing onstage. ♂
joins her.
- 22.20 P. sees herself in mirror as a thin
white girl.
- 22.51 mother in bed - maybe matri. under bed-
clothes: "Come take care of Mommy,
Precious."
- 24.19 P. orders food @ fried chicken joint.
Steals it, runs away.
- 25.36 P. @ alt. school. Wait. Vomits.
- 27.47 she enters class. Small class.
Teacher = Blue Rain.
- 29.43 introd. tnr. Ex-addict + mother etc.
P. # "want" to...
- 31.59 P. talks haltingly abt herself. says she
good @ anything.
- 34.11 diff. exercise in class - writing alphabet.
P. slaps ♀ f. saying "f for fat."
- 35.48 Blu + P. talk in office. Blu encourages
her to read. P. hears her mother shouting,
rapist father's breathing, slap noise.

- 37.26 P. struggles to read picture b+k. Bly helps her.
- 38.44 @ home. Mother questions P., wants her to get on welfare + not go to school.
- 40.34 Mother talking. "you can't learn shit".
- 41.46 forces her to eat full plate of food, tho' she is hungry. B + w film on tv - P. sees herself in it w/ her mother.
- 43.40 mother sleeps in her chair.
- 44.18 P. @ welfare office. Social w/kr talks to her abt her home life.
- 45.39 P. calls her daughter "Mongoloid". Grandmother brought her over 1 day so social w/kr w/kr think she lived w/ them - f/back.
- 47.14 mother puts on a convincing act f. social w/kr.
- 49.06 mother angry w. child when social w/kr leave. "you're so fuckin' stupid" to P.
- 49.43 back to present. P. tells her father - "he gave me this baby and the one before it".
- 51.22 had her baby on kitchen floor. "my mom kicking me upside my head".
- 51.59 P. + class on field trip @ museum.
- 53.11 P. surfs big footage of news etc. Wants to teach her baby.
- 35.19 P. reads her story to class - cut to P. on gurney in hospital. In labour.

- 56.02 her baby - Abdul .
- 56.41 class + nurse in P.'s room .
- 58.43 P. writes in her bk . She + want to give up her baby but may have to give up school .
- 1.00-56 Blu + P. write to each other . Blu urges her to think abt herself + give Abdul up f. adopt'n + return to school .
- 1.02-50 P. w. baby rets home .
- 1.03.55 mother + l'k @ her . "Hey Precious" .
- 1.05.09 mother demands a drink . Mother throw baby down , breaks glass , shout @ her f. "taking" her man . They struggle . P. pushes mother ag. wall , pushes tv over , hits w. baby , falls down stairs .
- 1.06.43 mother throw tv d/stairs . I/cut w. ironic xmas cards + photos of them as a happy family .
- 1.07.53 P. outside church - imagines h/rself in choir . Mother trashes P.'s car .
- 1.09.08 P. travels , walks w. baby .
- 110.02 Blu + ♀ arr. @ school - P. broke in + w'ked there . Blu + class help P. + baby .
- 1.12.41 i/cut class + Blu on phone .
- 1.13.50 P. @ Blu's place . "straight-up lesbians" (thinks) .
- 1.15.11 chat w. P. + understand them .
- 1.16.28 celebrat'n in class - P. won literacy award + cheque .

- .17.46 P. + Blu talk .
- .19.05 montage P. w. Abdul . P. ~~at~~ ~~is~~ vlover .
- .20.11 mother visits P. , tells her her father = dead + he had AIDS . P.'s fantasy of being a model .
- .21.05 "we never did it up in the ass"
- 1.22.04 class talks
- 1.24.07 P. upset in class "they say I'm HIV positive" . Baby + infected . "fuck you" . She cries .
- .25.39 "Love beat me, raped me, called me an animal" . Blu tells her she loves her + that she should write .
- .26.41 P. talks to social wkr .
- 28.04 P. steals a file .
- 28.29 P.'s mother wants to re-write w. P. + her kids + have a session w. social wkr .
- 30.05 discuss in class abt what P. should do w. her life .
- 32.20 P. helps abused girl - gives her scarf . P. realises she = beautiful as she is (vlover) .
- .33.01 social wkr mtg w. P. + her mother . Mother defensive abt the incestuous abuse .
- .34.11 mother says P. + Abdul belong to her .
- .35.15 social wkr asks abt the physical + sexual abuse . Started when P. was 3 yo . Mother gave P. bottles + Carl (father) "the titty" .
- .37.11 mother talks . Said Carl reached over +

touched my baby" . . . He said it was good for her "I wanted him to make love to me . . . that was my man + he wanted my daughter . . . That's why I hated her" "was fucking my baby"

1.38.43 "it's this bitch's fault, she didn't scream . . . who was gonna love me?"

1.40.03 mother brings in P's daughter

1.41.07 P. talks to mother . "You ain't gonna see me no more" She leaves

1.42.38 P. + her 2 children walking thru city . Pop JJ . She smiles

1.43.15 For precious girls everywhere . Credits . Cast: M^o Nique, Paula Patton, Mariah Carey etc.

1.49.22 ends . (109.22)

2.11

3.15

After all - being paid for that was all P's

of making her "just" happy as P. (1.41.22) - that's why I hated her - she was fucking my baby