

## SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR DECISION

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

### HEADNOTE

<b>Title of publication:</b>	Mr Right
<b>Other known title(s):</b>	Not stated
<b>OFLC ref:</b>	1600215.000
<b>Medium:</b>	Film
<b>Classification:</b>	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
<b>Descriptive note:</b>	Contains violence and offensive language.
<b>Display conditions:</b>	None

*Mr Right* is a black comedy with a running time of 96 min 07 sec. The film follows the growing relationship between Martha and Francis. Their offbeat personalities draw them together. However when Martha discovers that Francis is a professional killer she has to make a life-changing decision. It transpires that Francis is a former CIA assassin who had a moral epiphany about killing. Now he only kills those who hire him to murder other people. Throughout the film he dodges bullets, and attackers' fists and knives, with superhuman grace. Angry clients such as incompetent gangsters Johnny, Vaughn and Richie, and his former CIA handler Ed Hopper, make outlandish efforts to kill Francis. When they kidnap Martha, Francis attempts to rescue her and she realises that she has found her perfect lover. The highly improbable storyline is the backdrop for increasingly bloody violence with associated darkly humorous jokes and droll comments.

The film fleetingly deals with matters of sex under s3(1) of the FVPC Act. All of this content is implied by dialogue, mainly in the first stanza of the film. Martha is shocked when her boyfriend implies that he wants her to engage in a threesome. She dumps him and soon after takes her best friends out for a restorative night on the town. "One of you hussies is getting fisted," she declares, in line with the brash humour of the film.

Matters of criminal violence and cruelty are considered under s3(3) (a)(i). The publication does not present any material in a way that causes it to satisfy criteria under s3(2).

Much of the early violence in the film has a surreal nature, mainly images of Francis quickly killing attackers and making wise-cracks. However in the second half of the film Francis gets involved in more detailed fights that become gorier. People are shot and killed, often having their weapons turned on themselves. Blood bursts appear on their chests and they have knives embedded in their bodies. Although both Francis and Martha are shot and are bloodied they seem unaffected by their wounds. When wounded by shotgun pellets that would have killed anyone else Francis twice exclaims, "that fucking hurt". Many of the fight scenes and confrontations involves kinetic choreography and special effects which to a certain extent

minimise the overall impact of the violence on the viewer. However there are several images of significant cruelty. Hopper shoots several wounded men dead. Gangster Richie repeatedly smashes a telephone on the head of a henchman. Martha is tied up and roughly slapped about the face. In turn she smashes one of her assailants in the head several times with a statue. These images are bloody and disturbing.

Most of the violence above is associated with strong highly offensive language (s3A). Phrases include “you piece of shit motherfucker”. “I’ll kill you and your fucking bitch”, and “you daft cunt”. Often this language is intended in the manner of crude shock humour, however it is harmful for impressionable younger viewers in that it is likely to result in abusive behaviour towards others.

The dominant effect of the publication as a whole is a high-intensity comedy film involving choreographed violence and computer-generated special effects. The publication contains widespread depictions of violence which is likely to be disturbing to children and younger teenagers. Furthermore it uses extensive violence and cruelty in a gleefully gratuitous manner encouraging the viewer to find amusement in these presentations. The frequent use of abusive offensive language is further cause for a restriction. Older teenagers and adults familiar with this type of black comedy will read the context and not be affected by it. Therefore the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years. This interferes with the right to freedom of expression but is tolerated by the requirements of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act because it is a reasonable limitation in the interest of preventing injury to the public good.

**Note:**

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