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## SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR DECISION

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

**HEADNOTE** 

Title of publication: Final Destination 5

Other known title(s): Final Destination 5 3D

**OFLC ref:** 1100915.000

Medium: Film

Classification: Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted

to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

**Descriptive note:** Contains graphic violence.

Display conditions: None

Final Destination 5 is a horror feature which is part of a popular horror series. All Final Destination films contain a similar structure. The opening scene contains a dramatic disaster or accident which results in many people being killed. This turns out to be a premonition of the lead character, who warns others of the future horror about to take place. A handful of people manage to escape before the accident actually takes place, thus cheating death. However, throughout the feature each surviving character dies in a horrific fashion, in the order they were meant to die in the original accident. In this feature, a bus filled with staff members are on their way to a retreat. They come across a harbour bridge and Sam visualises a horrific bridge accident where all except his girlfriend Molly are killed. Sam wakes in the bus before the accident takes place. Several of his friends manage to make it off the bridge before it completely collapses. At the funeral for those on the bus who did not survive, Sam is approached by Bludworth, a coroner who featured on the first two Final Destination films. He warns Sam that he and his friends cannot cheat death, implying that their doom is impending. This proves true as Sam's friends start dying one by one. Bludworth tells Sam and his friends Molly, Peter and Nathan that if they kill someone they will get their remaining years. Nathan kills his co-worker and Peter tries to kill Molly. Peter is killed and Sam and Molly assume that their lives are back to normal. However, Molly and Sam board Flight 180 to France, the same flight that caused doom in the original Final Destination. The plane explodes and kills them, while part of the plane crashes through a bar and kills Nathan. The feature ends with a montage of death scenes from other Final Destination films during the credits. This feature was viewed in 3D.

Under s3(1) of the FVPC Act the publication deals with horror, violence and cruelty. There is no material that requires discussion under s3(2). Violence and cruelty are further discussed under s3(3)(a)(i).

The publication deals with matters of horror with mild supernatural elements. There is a lingering feeling that the characters are being hunted by 'Death'. As each death is about to occur, suspenseful music plays, a gust of wind arrives, a dark shadow passes over the room and it becomes increasingly clear that something horrific is about to occur. It gives the feeling that

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'Death' is in the room. The feature is also a splatter horror feature, where impossible scenarios occur and death scenes contain exaggerated blood presented in association with strong elements of black humour.

The publication contains the infliction of serious physical harm and acts of significant cruelty. Most of this violence is caused by an unseen force causes a series of equipment mishaps which lead to an extravagant death. The opening scene is particularly strong. It begins with staff members in a bus on a large bridge. The bridge begins to tremble as the road starts to crack. The staff members, including Sam, exit the bus and try to run for safety. Peter's girlfriend Candice falls through a hole in the bridge and she is impaled on the mast of a yacht. Her bloody intestines explode from her body. The scene cuts to another staff member stuck in the bus, which falls into the water. His face is jammed against the front window as it hits the water. Another co-worker falls from the bridge into the water. She is fine at first but a car falls right on top of her. The cables on the side of the bridge eventually start to snap with one whipping Nathan. Blood explodes from his body as it hits him. The team's manager tries to hold onto the side of the bridge when black tar falls onto his face, causing him to burn. Sam and Peter try to crawl across toward Holly who is in a safe position. A number of metal rods fall from a truck above them, with several of them penetrating Peter through various parts of his body. Sam looks up toward to truck and a large piece of aluminium roofing falls from the truck and cuts him in half. There is exaggerated blood spatter from his body. Sam then wakes abruptly, indicating it was a premonition.

Another particularly disturbing scene occurs when Olivia goes to get laser eye surgery. The minute she walks into the surgical room it becomes apparent that something horrific is about to occur. Olivia sits in the surgical chair and grips a teddy bear. As the doctor clamps her head into place and attaches a tool to spread her eye-lids, she grasps the bear and panics. Eerie music plays and the camera focuses on small details, such as a teddy bear's eye, to emphasize impending horror. The doctor leaves and a series of events (including a falling cup of water causing an electrical surge) cause the laser to switch into high mode and burn her eye. This is depicted in close up. She tries to shield her face from the laser but it burns through her hand. She moves her hand and the laser cuts down her face. She rips the tool from her eye, which rips her eyelid slightly. She stands up screaming, with a large wound around her eye. Her shoe heel snaps and she falls from the window onto a car. Her eyeball rolls into the road and is run over, shown in close up. The scene is relatively realistic.

## Other scenes of horrific violence include:

- Candice falling from gymnastic bars. Her body hits the ground and bones and blood burst out from her body. She is reduced to a crumpled bloody mess on the ground.
- Issac, a particularly unlikeable character, is on a massage table with acupuncture needles inserted in his body. He falls from the table and the needles are pushed deeply into his body. A close up shot depicts Issac pulling one out. The needle is bloody and it looks painful. He is backed into a corner by a fire when his head is crushed by a large Buddha statue. There is an explosion of blood in this scene.
- Sam stabs Peter through the back with a large rotisserie fork. Blood splatters from his
  chest.
- An airliner explodes and Peter is severely burnt. This is shown in slow motion and there is lots of focus on his screaming face as his flesh burns off.
- The plane's engine falls through the roof of a bar and crushes Nathan, whose severed hand flies toward the viewer.

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The film ends with a montage of death scenes from the other *Final Destination* films. The montage is a fast-paced series of bloody explosions and dismemberments. These range from a woman burning to death in a tanning bed to another woman having nails shot through her eye. The scenes have also been enhanced with additional animated blood which almost gives it a comedic effect. Many of the scenes in this feature do have a blackly comedic element, due to either the convoluted and unrealistic nature of the deaths, or the relief the viewer feels when the scene is over. Further, when violence is about to occur the tone of the scene changes. This gives the audience sufficient warning.

Under 3A the publication contains mild use of the word "fuck". It is not likely to cause offence to the public in general.

The dominant effect is a formulaic but exhilarating horror feature where individuals are forced to calculate when their death will occur, and how to avoid it. The violence is very strong at times and there is a feeling of suspense and dread leading up to the violence. The publication's unrestricted availability is likely to be injurious to the public good, given the way it presents graphic violence and horror. Children and younger teenagers are likely to be shocked and disturbed by the level of violence, particularly the realistic looking scenes like the eye surgery. While the violence has a degree of humour and comes across as over the top and unrealistic, exposing this violence to this younger audience is likely to inure them to violence in general. Older teenagers and adults are better able to contextualise this material contrived as entertainment. Therefore, the publication is restricted to those who have attained the age of 16 years.

## Note:

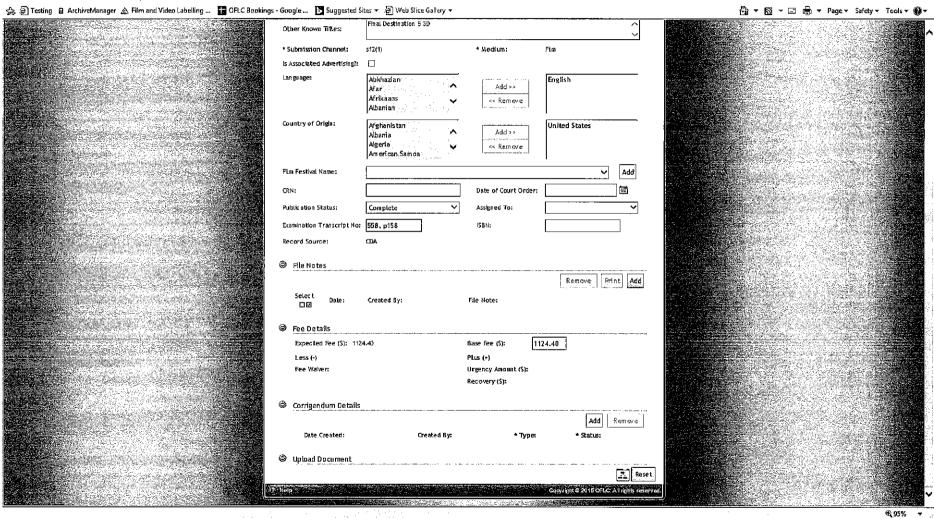
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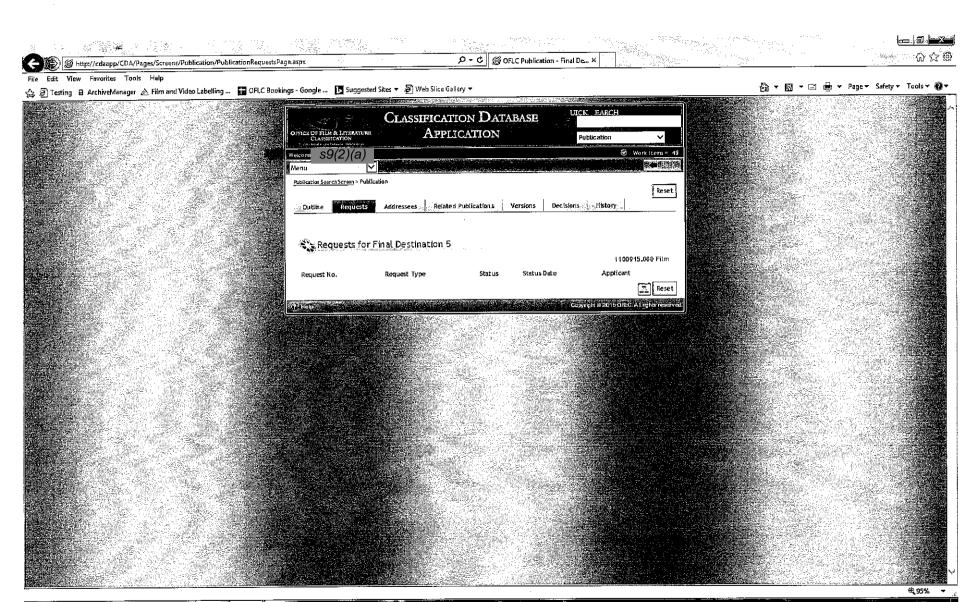
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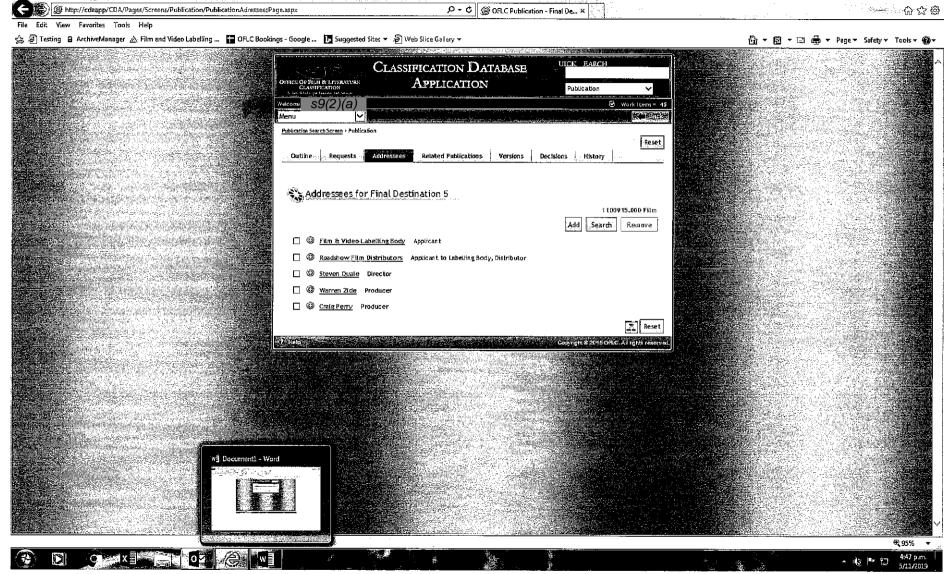
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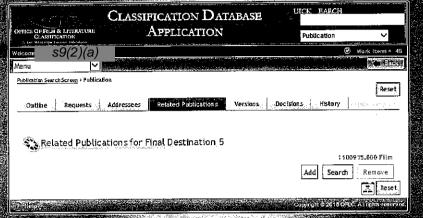


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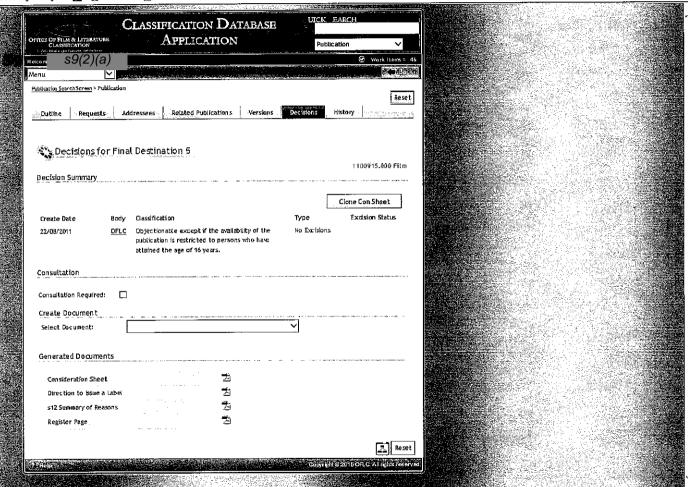


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