

Want to See an Open Caption Movie in Virginia?

Know your rights!

You have rights at movie theaters. Your rights depend on how many theaters a company owns, and when the movie was released.

Movie theater not following the law?



File a complaint here:

<https://www.oag.state.va.us/citizen-resources/civil-rights>

Local Theaters



A “local theater” is a movie theater that is not owned by a big company, they own less than 5 movie theaters in Virginia.

✳️ Open Caption showings at local theaters may be available by request.

✳️ At all times local theaters must schedule an open caption showing within 8 days of your request only if both things are true:

- ☐ That theater is showing the movie at least 7 times a week for more than 1 week
- ☐ The movie comes with the option for open captions when the theater buys it

✗ The local theater is not required to do an Open Caption showing if one or both things are not true.

An “Open Caption showing” is when a movie theater shows a movie with the captions visible on the movie theater screen



Chain Theaters

A “chain theater” is a movie theater owned by a large company, they own 5 or more movie theaters in Virginia.

✳️ In the first two weeks of a movie release, chain theaters must:

- Have at least 4 open caption showings scheduled for each new movie
- At least 1 Open Caption showing should be after 6pm during the week or any time on the weekend
- Open Caption showings should be clearly labeled

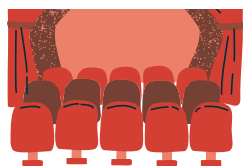
✳️ At a chain theater, 4 scheduled Open Caption showings are required for a movie if both things are true:

- ☐ That theater is showing the movie at least 7 times a week for more than 1 week
- ☐ The movie comes with the option for open captions when the theater buys it

✗ A chain theater is not required to schedule Open Caption showings if one or both things are not true.

✳️ Starting on the third week of a movie’s release at a chain theater, Open Caption showings are scheduled after you call and ask:

- The chain theater must schedule a showing within 3 days
- If you buy tickets for a specific movie time before you ask, the chain theater is not required to make that an Open Caption showing



✳️ Open Caption showings are not required for:

- Drive-In Movie Theaters
- Special one-time showings