

Comment Submitted to Copyright Office

Exemption to Prohibition on Circumvention of Copyright Protection Systems for Access Control Technologies

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<http://www.copyright.gov/1201/comment-forms/>

To the Copyright Office,

As a father of disabled children, I would like to provide comment on the Electronic Frontier Foundation's request to renew exemptions to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) for breaking the decryption of DVDs (proposed class of work 7B).

As a father of an autistic child with pica disorder (an appetite for substances largely non-nutritive: considered deadly in children with autism) who very frequently destroys and eats DVD discs. In order to ensure his safety and avoid daily loss of property, I am required to decrypt and make backup copies of DVDs for his use. Our copies are printed on special DVDs which use a minimum of harmful chemicals and products which are safer for my child in the event of consumption, and allow us to make additional copies when these products are damaged. Without this exemption I would be criminal just for loving my son and wanting to keep him from harm.

In addition, due to his destructive nature (typical in those with autism) we use older, cheaper equipment for his entertainment system which sometimes has issue with newer decryption on DVD discs. This also requires that we remove the decryption to properly allow content to show on his equipment. Content from Walt Disney, which is well suited for my son's mental age, is usually heavily and aggressively encrypted and rarely runs on my son's equipment. Without these exemptions, my son would be denied the ability to consume content our family has legal acquired, and would lower his standard of living.

Thank you for allowing me to provide comment on this important matter. I hope my comments assist you in this pivotal decision.

Jim Hammons