



Frequently Asked Questions

NEW WEBSITE & STREAMING PLATFORM LAUNCH

ABOUT THE NEW WEBSITE

Why is California Newsreel launching a new website?

After more than 50 years as a production and distribution center for social issue documentary films, we're modernizing how we serve our audiences. The new Newsreel.org will make it easier to find, license, and access our full catalog — and for the first time, allows you to stream directly from us.

When will the new site launch?

The new California Newsreel platform is launching in fall 2026. We'll be in touch with details as we get closer to the date. You can subscribe to receive updates [here](#).

Will the current site remain available during the transition?

Yes. The current Newsreel.org will remain fully accessible until the new site goes live. Nothing is changing in the meantime.

ACCOUNTS & EXISTING LICENSES

I have an existing account on the current Newsreel.org. What happens to it?

Your account is being migrated to the new platform. If you've previously purchased a streaming license, you'll have access to your account on the new site without needing to start over. Please note, DVD-only order history will be available by year-end.

What happens to licenses I've already purchased?

Your existing streaming licenses will remain valid and accessible on the new platform, with the added advantage that currently licensed titles will playback from the website or through an IP-verified embed code.

Will my institution's access through platforms like Kanopy, Films Media Group, or Alexander Street Press be affected?

No. The new California Newsreel website does not change any existing licensing arrangements through third-party platforms. If your institution currently accesses our content through Kanopy or another aggregator, that relationship continues as-is.

STREAMING & LICENSING OPTIONS

What are the new ways to stream on the new site?

The new platform offers three ways to access our catalog:

- **Educational Streaming** — IP-verified institutional streaming with one-year, three-year, and life-of-file licensing options. Stream directly through your account on Newsreel.org or download the file.
- **Community Screening** — License a film for a single classroom, community event, or group screening of under 100 participants where no admission is charged. You'll be able to watch from the site or receive a distributable secure link and password to share with your group.
- **Home Viewing** — 48-hour personal rental for individual, in-home viewing. Available instantly, no subscription required. This service will replace Vimeo-On-Demand when they shut down later in the year.

What is life-of-the-file-format licensing and is it new?

Life-of-the-file-format licensing gives your institution access to a title for the life of the file. Like our site/local streaming licenses in the past, you can download a file to use on your institution's password-protected streaming server for service to students/faculty and staff with no renewals required. It will now be a formal option available directly through the new site.

Can I license individual episodes of a series, or only full series?

Yes. Many of our in-house-produced social-issue series will be fully parsable, meaning you can license individual episodes or the complete series, depending on your needs. This level of flexibility is not always available through third-party platforms.

Can I add a DVD to my license?

Yes. We're no longer tying licensing to DVDs, but you can upgrade any US-based license order with a DVD add-on for \$50.00 plus shipping.

WHY STREAM DIRECTLY FROM CALIFORNIA NEWSREEL?

A few things that are unique to a direct relationship with us:

- **Life-of-the-file-format licensing** — only available directly through California Newsreel
- **Full series access** — choose individual episodes or complete series, on your terms
- **Educator guides and curriculum support** — resources made available to you to support your educational and community engagement needs
- **Flexible licensing** — options designed for institutions, community groups, classrooms, and individual viewers. Choose the license that's right for your event or course.
- **A direct relationship with us** — for support, renewals, and questions about specific titles or subject areas
- **Supporting the filmmakers** — purchasing directly means more revenue goes back to the independent filmmakers whose work we distribute

Any additional questions?

We're here to help. [Contact us](#) with any questions about your account, licensing, or the new platform.