



Secrets of Reality TV Participant Contracts

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How much would it cost a reality show participant who revealed a secret storyline twist before the episode was broadcast? If the show in question is *Survivor*, the tattle-taler (tattle-teller?) could be looking at lawsuit from the producers for \$5 million.

Eriq Gardner at THR, Esq. points out some of the highlights in his report on the matter: 'Survivor' Contestants Owe \$5 Million If They Spill Secrets. The website reality blurred has uploaded a copy of the *Survivor* participant agreement (it was first uploaded back in May, then taken down due to a copyright infringement claim, but is currently back online), and offers a detailed look at its provisions, including releases for infliction of severe mental stress and the granting of an option to enter into a talent agreement following the show (which makes perfect sense: if the network is going to expend capital in turning someone into a "star", they're going to want to realize on that investment).

While *Survivor* is a celebrated legend in the world of reality TV, readers may also be interested in the participant agreement from the 2007 series *Kid Nation* - a sort of ersatz *Lord of the Flies*.

Finally, Rachel Wilkes at Law Law Land provides some details about The Reality of Court-Themed "Reality" Shows:

To participate in the show, the parties must sign an agreement to dismiss their court claims and submit the case to binding arbitration. ... in *The People's Court* the show pays any judgment, and pays both parties a nominal amount for their time regardless of the outcome.

So, not only is *The People's Court* not really a court, the parties aren't even obligated to pay the awards? Colour me disillusioned...

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