



Pitfalls of Copyright Laws *for Churches*

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Overview of Copyright Law

-  Copyright is generally “the exclusive right to reproduce, publish, sell, or distribute the matter and form of something (such as a literary, musical, or artistic work)”
-  Copyright Act of 1976 was passed to protect the property interests of authors and artists and their works
-  Various remedies or punishments for violations; depends on degree of infringement
-  Christians should follow the laws of the land (Rom. 13:1-7)

The Religious Services Exception

17 U.S.C.A. § 110(3)









**“ [T]he following are not
infringements of copyright ...
(3) performance of a nondramatic
literary or musical work or of a
dramaticomusical work of a
religious nature or display of a
work, in the course of services at a
place of worship or other religious
assembly” shall not constitute
infringement of copyright.”**

**- “Religious Service Exemption”
17 U.S.C. 110(3)**



Understanding the Religious Service Exception

-  NOT a blanket exception for churches
-  **Types of copyrights exempted:** musical works (music and lyrics) and non-dramatic literary works (poems, prose, books, periodicals, etc.)
-  **Exclusive rights exempted:** only “public performance” and “public display”
-  **Location/Setting exempted:** “during the course of services at a place of worship or other religious assembly”

“Fair Use” of Copyrighted Works

17 U.S.C. § 107





“Fair Use” or Unfair Use?



Fair use is a legal doctrine that allows the unlicensed use of copyrighted works in certain circumstances



Certain uses allowed: criticism, comment, new reporting, teaching, scholarship and research



4 Factors considered:

1. Purpose and character of use
2. Nature of copyrighted work
3. Amount/portion used
4. Effect of use on potential market/value of work

Common Pitfalls

Ways Christians Fall Into Infringement



1



Illegally Copying/Distributing Copyrighted Works

2



Using Copyrighted Images Without Permission

3



Showing Copyrighted Videos Without License

4



Live-streaming Entire Services

Solutions – CCLI



Christian Copyright Licensing International
(<http://www.ccli.com>)



Covers the following activities:

- Storing lyrics (on computer for visual projection)
- Printing songs (in bulletins, programs or for congregational singing)
- Recording services
- Projecting lyrics
- Translating songs to other languages



Streaming license can be included!



Alternate option: Christian Copyright Solutions
(www.christiancopyrightsolutions.com)

Copyright License Pricing

Select the Copyright License that best represents your ministry. Optional Rehearsal and Streaming coverages enable sharing and podcasting. Or simply pick the one-time Event License you need for your special event.

| | | Optional license add-ons | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Copyright License ? | | Streaming ? | Rehearsal ? | Event License ? |
| Size ? | Base Cost (Annually) | Additional (Annually) | Additional (Annually) | One-time Cost |
| AH: 1-24 | \$61 | \$62 | \$87 | \$34 |
| A: 25-99 | \$129 | \$62 | \$112 | \$54 |
| B: 100-199 | \$216 | \$62 | \$138 | \$87 |
| C: 200-499 | \$290 | \$89 | \$163 | \$117 |
| D: 500-999 | \$407 | \$116 | \$214 | \$164 |
| E: 1,000-1,499 | \$496 | \$168 | \$265 | \$198 |
| F: 1,500-2,999 | \$602 | \$223 | \$316 | \$242 |
| G: 3,000-4,999 | \$681 | \$276 | \$418 | \$272 |
| H: 5,000-9,999 | \$859 | \$329 | \$520 | \$343 |
| I: 10,000-19,999 | \$1,030 | \$435 | \$520 | \$413 |
| J: 20,000-49,999 | \$1,370 | \$541 | \$520 | \$548 |
| K: 50,000-99,999 | \$2,054 | \$806 | \$520 | \$823 |
| L: 100,000-199,999 | \$3,466 | \$1,071 | \$520 | \$1,388 |
| M: 200,000+ | \$5,582 | \$1,601 | \$520 | \$2,233 |



ONSITE Facilities
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Music License

ONSITE and ONLINE
Bundle Package

Learning
Center

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| Total Weekly Attendance | Annual Fee | One Time Set-up Fee |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 1-199 | \$225 | \$25 |
| 200-499 | \$350 | \$30 |
| 500-1,999 | \$695 | \$70 |
| 2000-5,999 | \$925 | \$90 |
| 6000-14,999 | \$1,200 | \$90 |
| 15,000+ | \$1,750 | \$90 |



Solutions – CVLI



Christian Video Licensing International
(<http://www.cvli.com>)



Covers the following activities:

- Showing video clips
- Movie nights



Note: sister company to CCLI



Alternate options:

- Swank Motion Pictures (www.swank.com)
- Criterion Pictures (www.criterionpicusa.com)



Solutions – Photos/Images



Free websites:

- www.stockfreeimages.com
- www.pexels.com
- www.pixabay.com



Pay websites:

- www.istockphoto.com
- www.shutterstock.com
- <http://stock.adobe.com>