

Church Weddings and Funerals

This FACT FILE has been created by CCLI as a guide to the copyright implications for church weddings and funerals. If you do not find all the information you need in this FACT FILE, please visit www.ccli.co.uk or contact CCLI (details overleaf).

COPYRIGHT AND THE LAW

Those organising weddings or funerals often arrange for orders of service to be prepared. If these contain the words of hymns or songs, poems, readings or passages of scripture, then churches are responsible for ensuring that copyright permission has been obtained, and full acknowledgements included where appropriate, even if the design and printing of the sheets have been ordered by the family concerned.

PREPARING AN ORDER OF SERVICE

When preparing an order of service, it is important to be aware of the copyright implications for each element that is included. For example:

- (a) **Excerpts from liturgy** - Most of the texts used in church liturgy are copyright, but rights holders do not usually charge for one-off, non-commercial reproduction. However, they will probably require that full acknowledgement is included. Please see the published book for details of the appropriate wording.
- (b) **Hymns and music** - There are normally copyright implications whenever you reproduce the words and/or music of hymns or worship songs, for which permission should be obtained in advance. For an annual fee, CCLI can provide the **Church Copyright Licence (CCL)** which covers the reproduction of song words for inclusion in orders of service etc. (see www.ccli.co.uk/songwords for more information). Details of the copyright owners of each song or hymn should be given beneath the words, including the author, the publisher and your CCLI licence number, for example:

Fred Smiley © 2000 Happy Music Ltd, CCLI Licence No: 12345

Some Roman Catholic publishers are not covered by CCLI but may be covered by a Calamus licence from Decani Music. Details of the publishers covered by the Calamus licence can be found at www.decanimusic.co.uk. A Calamus licence does not cover all Roman Catholic publishers.

- (c) **Scripture text** - Most Bible publishers allow a certain amount of scripture text to be reproduced without prior permission, as long as the appropriate acknowledgement is included, the wording for which is usually shown on one of the first pages of most versions of the Bible.
- (d) **Illustrations** - The use of images in any documentation, including service sheets, will require you to have obtained prior permission from the copyright owner. This includes images and photographs found on the internet and those copied from a printed publication. Some clip art *may* be free to use in non-commercial situations, however, you should always check the copyright owner's terms before reproducing their images.

Copyright is an intellectual property right given to the creators of original musical, literary and dramatic works. The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (CDPA) is the legislation that currently operates in the UK and provides the creator with two main rights:

- **Economic** - this allows the creator to charge anyone who wishes to copy, perform or record their work for any commercial or non-commercial use.
- **Moral** - this allows the creator to protect their work from any change which might be considered offensive or not in keeping with their wishes.

LIVE PERFORMANCE AND PLAYING COMMERCIAL SOUND RECORDINGS

Live performances of music at a wedding, such as during the signing of the register, do not require licence cover because PRS for Music considers that such activity is within a time of worship. Similarly, a licence is not required from Phonographic Performance Ltd. (PPL) for sound recordings played during weddings because PPL deems them to be domestic events, not public events. However, a dubbing licence is required if audio/video recording takes place whilst sound recordings are played. (See WVRL, below).

Live performances and the use of sound recordings during funerals are also exempt from the need for licence cover.

THE WEDDING VIDEO-RECORDING LICENCE (WVRL)

If your church holds a **Church Copyright Licence (CCL)** you can allow couples to audio/video record the *live* elements of their wedding service. If the bride enters the church to pre-recorded music, this cannot be audio/video recorded under the CCL.

If the wedding couple are not church members, or the wedding is being recorded by a professional videographer, CCLI recommends that the wedding couple obtains a **Wedding Video-Recording Licence (WVRL)** because editorial control of the video is not usually in the hands of the church. Furthermore, unlike the CCL, the WVRL also covers video-recordings made at the wedding reception, including any live band, music played from sound recordings for a disco and music overdubs which the videographer might add to the finished soundtrack afterwards.

CCLI has produced an information leaflet for churches to give to wedding couples, advising them to purchase their licence directly from www.wvrl.co.uk. Please contact CCLI for copies of this leaflet.

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The information included in this Fact File is provided for information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. If in doubt you should consult a legal expert. Whilst CCLI aims to provide information that is accurate, CCLI accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information provided.

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