

COPYRIGHT FACT FILE:

Church Weddings and Funerals

This FACT FILE has been created by Christian Copyright Licensing International (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

Copyright is an intellectual property right given to the creators of original musical, literary and dramatic works. The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 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.

Those organising weddings or funerals often arrange for printed service sheets to be prepared. If these sheets 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 SERVICE SHEETS

When preparing a service sheet, 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 copyright implications whenever you reproduce the words and/or music of published 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 service sheets 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 through CCLI but are made available through a copyright organisation called Decani Music. Details of the publishers covered through Decani Music can be found at www.decanimusic.co.uk.

Continued overleaf...

For more information, visit www.ccli.co.uk

PREPARING SERVICE SHEETS *continued...*

- (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 any version 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.

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 Limited (PPL) for sound recordings played in the normal course of church activities.

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

THE WEDDING VIDEO RECORDING LICENCE

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 recorded under the CCL.

If the wedding couple are not church members, or the wedding is being recorded by a professional videographer, it is recommended 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 sound-track afterwards.

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

This FACT FILE has been produced to offer guidance and advice to those responsible for music in worship services and associated church activities. It does not claim to be a full description of copyright law, and CCLI cannot accept any responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information provided.



www.ccli.co.uk
for news, articles and
up-to-date information

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