

Understanding Copyright

The Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988



What is Copyright?

Copyright is an intellectual property right given to the creators of original musical, literary and dramatic works.

Copyright protects the songs we sing, the sound recordings we play, the films we watch, the text and pictures in our books and magazines, in fact when using the many resources we rely upon we often unwittingly find ourselves infringing copyright laws put in place to protect the rights of the authors, writers, film producers and composers whose work we wish to use.



Copyright Law

The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 is the legislation that currently operates in the UK and provides the copyright owner with two main rights:

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

These rights are considered to be in place from the moment a work is created. The owner does not need to register a work, or make a request for the rights.



Worship in the Church

If your congregation uses hymnbooks during worship, then the fee for copyright permission has already been paid because it was included in the purchase price of each book.

However, as technology continues to influence church activities, many of us now make our own song sheets/service sheets, or we project words using an OHP or computer projection system. But permission must still be obtained from the copyright owner, who will probably make a charge for use, in accordance with their rights under the law.

The prospect of contacting copyright owners each and every time you wish to reproduce one of their songs can be daunting. It was for this reason that CCLI introduced the Church Copyright Licence (CCL), ensuring that copyright owners are properly rewarded for the use of their work and giving churches the freedom to use songs without the hassle of having to contact many different copyright owners.

Multi-Media Technology

These days it is not uncommon to find churches photocopying, showing films, hosting concerts, making audio/video recordings of services and events, etc. In order to provide a solution to the various copyright infringements that could otherwise be made, CCLI now acts on behalf of Church Video Licensing International (CVLI), The Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) and the MCPS-PRS Alliance in order to make their licences available to the church in the UK.

If you wish to reproduce the words of hymns and worship songs, photocopy from a wide range of publications, show films, play or perform music, record music or download song lyrics/sheet music from the internet, contact CCLI for a simple, legal and affordable solution.



Not sure which licence(s) you need?

The Quick Guide Licence Table at www.ccli.co.uk/quick-guide will help you determine which licences you require.

FAQs

www.ccli.co.uk/faqs

Forums

www.ccli.co.uk/about/forums

For up-to-date information about CCLI please visit www.ccli.co.uk

Alternatively contact our Sales Team on Tel: 01323 436103 Email: sales@ccli.co.uk

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