

COPYRIGHT FACT FILE:

Photocopying in your church

This FACT FILE has been created by Christian Copyright Licensing International as a guide to the copyright implications for anyone photocopying music in their church. If you do not find all the information you need in this FACT FILE, please visit our website www.ccli.co.za or contact CCLI on 021 914 8908.

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 no 98 of 1976 is the legislation that currently operates in SA 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.

MORE ABOUT PHOTOCOPYING

Whether it is for teaching the worship band a new song, training the next generation of church leaders, or learning drama scripts, you must seek permission from the copyright owner to reproduce any of their work, even if it will only be used once!

The alternative to obtaining permission from the copyright owner each time you wish to reproduce something is to buy an appropriate licence from CCLI.

PHOTOCOPYING FROM MUSIC BOOKS

THE MUSIC REPRODUCTION LICENCE (MRL).

If you are photocopying from music books then you may need the MRL. Many worship leaders rely on photocopies when teaching new songs to the singers and musicians in the worship group. The obvious advantage is that your church need only purchase one copy of each songbook and then you can make enough copies of individual songs for everyone. By collating the copies into folders, your singers and musicians can have their own bespoke "hymnbooks" which contain all the songs you use in your church services, even though they might have been originally published in a variety of different songbooks. With the MRL you can photocopy the words and music of over 275,000 hymns and worship songs from over 7,500 catalogues of music, making it an invaluable resource for many churches today!

PHOTOCOPYING IN YOUR CHURCH LEGALLY

Now you can make - weekly news sheets for your congregation.
- teaching materials for study and home groups
- copy song/music sheets for your worship band

You would need a valid CCL licence before obtaining the MRL.

This FACT FILE has been produced to offer guidance and advice to those who might photocopy music for 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.