



Fact Sheet



CCLI®

The Religious Services
Exemption



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The Religious Services **Exemption**

Among the 6 exclusive rights of a songwriter, the Religious Services Exemption that's written into the U.S. Copyright Law provides an exception for 2 of those rights: performance and display.

The U.S. Copyright Law, Section 110, Item 3 – Limitations on exclusive rights: Exemption of certain PERFORMANCES and DISPLAYS, declares the following is NOT a violation of Copyright Law:

“PERFORMANCE of a nondramatic literary or musical work or of a dramatico-musical work of a religious nature, or DISPLAY of a work, in the course of services at a place of worship or other religious assembly”

The DISPLAY aspect sets up an interesting dichotomy for worship leaders. Apparently the law allows you to DISPLAY lyrics for copyright songs without permission, but it doesn't allow you to REPRODUCE song lyrics, or store them in a computer. You still need permission for that.

Remember, the Religious Services Exemption only covers 2 of the 6 exclusive rights. Not all of them.



You don't need permission
from the rightful song owner to
PERFORM or **DISPLAY**
a religious song in your church
service.