



Fact Sheet



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The CCLI
Copyright License



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Once churches began using other methods besides hymnals to share song lyrics with their congregations, the issue of copyright infringement surfaced. Reproducing copyrighted song lyrics in any form without permission violates the copyright law.

This is NOT about singing the songs. The Religious Services Exemption removes any question about singing songs in church. But copyright infringements do occur when a church projects or prints copyright-protected song lyrics for the congregation, photocopies song charts for the worship band, or records the worship service... without permission from the rightful song owner.

These are precisely the reasons CCLI developed the Copyright License. On behalf of the over 3,000 publishers and songwriters that CCLI represents, the Copyright License provides the necessary permission for churches to:



Enter and store song lyrics on computer for visual projection



Print songs and lyrics in bulletins, programs, liturgies and song sheets



Record live worship services on audio or video



Make custom vocal or instrumental arrangements, if there's no published version



Translate song lyrics into another language, if there's no published version