David T. Pudelwitts
6929 N. Hayden Rd. C-4#205
Scottsdale, AZ 85250

7-16-15

To U.S. Copyright Office.

Request for comments:

I am an artist and a writer who has had my copyrighted material infringed upon on several occasions, sometimes by very large companies, such as King Features Syndicates. On these occasions I was able to fight back because of the copyright laws which are on the books right now. I understand the Copyright Office wants to change these rules and laws by producing something called an Orphaned Works clause.

What does this term "Orphaned Works" mean? This means Kidnapped Works. Because no artist has any orphans. We create works, send them out into the world for people to either see or use and require that if they use the works to make money, sell a product or sell their own brand, etc. that we (the creators) will be PAID for said works. Apparently because so many works are now illegally copied on the internet someone in big business wants a new law that basically assumes that since they are too lazy to locate the source of the art and the artist, then they can pick up the copyright by proxy. In other words, they own the right to copy the work for whatever purpose they desire, simply because someone in their office was too lazy to track down the original work!

This is, without a doubt, the most degenerate use of the laws protecting creators ever devised by those who have no creative talent. Even if a writer or artist goes so far as to get a govt. copyright, or puts their phone, address, name and copyright symbol on a document, all anyone has to do these days is reproduce the document and erase the information, then they can cry to the govt. that the piece is "orphaned!"

This is absolutely NEVER the case. Artists don't have orphans. Even if they die, their "child" or creative work is not an orphan. The rights for copying or use go directly to the artist's descendants. Just because no one can locate the original or originator because of the deep levels of the Internet, does not and should not mean the work or the creator is somehow "lost." I have seen my work pop up in numerous places and am always ready to fight for my copyrights. With an Orphaned Works clause I and millions of others would be unable to fight anyone who has the money or power to get a lawyer and stake a claim to something they "found" on the internet.

I am asking the U.S. Copyright office to NOT establish any so-called Orphaned Work clauses. We artists already have a difficult enough job preventing theft as it is. This would simply make theft legal.

Sincerely, David T. Pudelwitts