Register’s Declaration of the End of the Disruption of the Copyright System by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Section 710 of the Copyright Act, which was added by the CARES Act, authorizes the Register of Copyrights, on a temporary basis and subject to certain exceptions, to “toll, waive, adjust, or modify any timing provision . . . or procedural provision” in the Copyright Act if she determines that a national emergency declared by the President “generally disrupts or suspends the ordinary functioning of the copyright system . . . or any component thereof.” In exercising this authority, the Register “shall consider the scope and severity of the particular national emergency, and its specific effect with respect to the particular provision, and shall tailor any remedy accordingly.” Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the President declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020, which was continued on February 24, 2021.

Pursuant to section 710, adjustments have been made to various timing requirements under the Copyright Act, beginning on March 31, 2020. Some of these adjustments have been extended several times, with the remaining adjustments scheduled to expire after December 31, 2021. I have determined, and therefore declare, that there is no evidence of a need for continued adjustments as a result of disruptions to the copyright system, effective at the end of the day on December 31, 2021.

Shira Perlmutter
Register and Director, U.S. Copyright Office