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To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

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From: Penny Arnold

Comment:

Six years ago, I became an avid scrapbooker, after the unexpected death of my 20 year old son, Adam Arnold. MANY, MANY, MANY times while trying to have a photo processing center enhance or enlarge these photo's of my son, or other heritage photos (heritage-meaning photos of myself as a child, in school photos, parents, grandparents, or older) I have been denied access because of some ancient copyright that I have NO WAY of finding the proper copyright owner, even if they were still alive, many of which are not!

Without this copyright permission I am also not allowed to submit layouts using any of these photos to any of the national scrapbook magazines for possible publication, nor can I get a copy of these treasured photos for other family members, without printing them out myself, on my home printer where the print quality is poor at best, so that leaves one family member with the properly processed photo, and the rest of the family members with an inferior photo of an important part of their family history!

Having been raised in the military we lived in MANY states during my childhood, leaving me no way to track down who took the photo of me in the second grade, or more importantly who took the BMX racing photos of my son, during the 6 years he raced bikes, at almost 100 different tracks, across most of the United States, and Canada, because too often even if these photos are marked with the photographer's name and address, those address'es are no longer current, or the photographer has passed away, possibly even in another state, leaving me no way to find out what has become of them, much less track down copyright permission.

I would much prefer to pay an extra fee to the professional photos, and retain the copyright myself, than to have to deal with these out of date laws, that make it impossible to find the copyright owner 10 years down the road. Copyright infringement problems have caused many families such as myself to stop using professional photographers, for all but the most important of family occasions, making photographer's lose a majority of their valuable income, that I am sure they are not recouping with the few dollars they are being sent by reorders on copyrighted photos. If professional photographers want to retain copyrights for extended periods of time, then they should be required by law, to maintain a web site contact address, so that permission or payment could be achieved by the consumer, or photo processing center, without it become a life long search! Thank you