



6731 bridge street #333
fort worth, texas 76112
281.304.0745

Dear Copyright Office:

I am Certified Medical Illustrator and have owned my own business for the past 25 years. My specialty area is fetal development and women's health illustration, and I have had to deal with the rampant pirating of my fetal images from websites, smart phone applications, iPad applications, etc. It has been a constant battle to educate the good faith persons who have used my art unauthorized because they found the works in media where pirates had deliberately deleted my copyright watermark and published my images illegally. In some of these cases, the pirate was the doctor's own web designer who simply removed my copyright insignia and submitted my art as an 'orphan work' for the healthcare website. In other cases, after receiving take-down notices from me, both the doctor and the web designer refused to remove the images until they were faced with legal action. Even then, they simply pirated images from my colleagues, removed the copyright information, and replaced my images with new 'orphaned works'.

Another recent trend is that legitimate clients often no longer allow illustrators to add copyright information directly to the art created for on-line publications. If the art is then pirated, the good faith user who finds the image on the pirate's site may conclude that it is 'orphaned'.

Mass Digitization will only make the situation more difficult because it is so easy to remove copyright information from digital images and many countries such as China, India, and Russia have weak or non-existent IP laws, so anything mass digitized is considered 'free'.

Another development in the last 4 years has been that larger format technologies such as iPad and megapixel smart phones are requiring artists to provide the highest resolution images that were once reserved for print media only. Mass digitization of larger illustration files will mean that the pirating of 'orphan works' will no longer be limited to 72 DPI web usage, but can now be distributed for print, film, and other types of higher-resolution media.

Thanks for listening.

Margaret 'Peg' Gerrity, Certified Medical Illustrator

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