147 Woodhaven Circle
Athens, GA 30606
May 7, 2015

Notice of Inquiry
U.S. Copyright Office
Washington, DC

Stealing and misuse of copyrighted images on the internet is rampant.

It has become a commonplace business practice, even at major corporations and their advertising agencies, simply to misappropriate images from internet display galleries such as flickr.com and use them commercially without payment to the creator, without notice of copyright, and without credit to the owner.

My daughter, who is an excellent photographer, found one of her rodeo images being used in national advertising and in billboards and signage. By the time she became aware of it and went through the "takedown" routine she had been deprived of thousands of dollars in potential revenue.

The person seen in her photograph was used for commercial purposes without compensation and without authorization. This, in turn, created ill will toward her, not toward the abuser.

Other of her images have been stolen and used by pretenders claiming credit for the work. Whether they have been resold for commercial use is unknown.

Basically, anything posted on the internet is seen as fair game, as if in public domain. Copyright has become ineffective to the point of being useless.

Michael Matthews