

**Philana Thompson**

2022 ADDC President

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June 2022

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Happy June!

Over the last couple of years, it seems our organization has been hit with some pretty hefty fines when it comes to copyright infringement of photo’s.

In copyright law, there are a lot of different types of works, including paintings, photographs, illustrations, musical compositions, sound recordings, computer programs, books, poems, blog posts, movies, architectural works, plays, and so much more!

An example of the issue at hand is folks are copying pictures found on the internet and using them in newsletters, social media, etc. Unless you have purchased the copyright license or received direct approval from the owner this is copyright infringement and can be subject to hefty fines.

## Is it possible to use a copyright-protected work without infringing?

Yes, in some circumstances, it is possible to use a copyright-protected work without infringing the owner’s copyright. For more about this, you may wish to learn about [fair use](http://www.dmlp.org/legal-guide/fair-use). It is important to note that your content can be removed in response to a claim of copyright infringement, even if you have...

* Given credit to the copyright owner
* Refrained from monetizing the infringing content
* Charged for a copy of the content in question
* Noticed similar content that appear elsewhere on the internet
* Purchased the content including a hard or digital copy
* Recorded the content yourself from TV, a movie theater, or the radio
* Copied the content yourself from a textbook, a movie poster or photograph
* Stated that “no copyright infringement is intended”

<https://support.google.com/legal/answer/3463239?hl=en>

The best rule of thumb is to only use photos you have received direct permission to use or have purchased the license to use it. It is in your clubs’ best interest to go back through your social media platforms, newsletters and anything that has been posted on a public platform and verify the content won’t get you in trouble with copyright infringement laws.

Prayers and Blessings!

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