



Church Copyright Fact File

Weddings and Funerals

This Fact File has been created by CCLI as a guide to the copyright implications for church weddings and funerals. If you do not find all the information you need here, please visit ccli.com or contact CCLI (details overleaf).

What do I need to know?

There are two common elements of a wedding or funeral service where copyright permission may be required:

Orders of service	When an order of service is prepared, the church is responsible for ensuring copyright permission has been obtained and full acknowledgements included where appropriate, even if the design and printing of the sheets have been arranged by the family concerned.
Recording the service	When a service is recorded during which pre-recorded music is played or live music is performed, permission or a licence is usually required.

Preparing an order of service

It is important to be aware of the copyright implications for each element that is included. For example:

Hymns and music	<p>There are normally copyright implications whenever you reproduce the words and/or music of hymns or worship songs. The CCLI Church Copyright Licence is the most convenient way of obtaining permission to reproduce most hymns and songs. Permission to reproduce a song can also be obtained directly from the copyright owner. No permission is needed for hymns which are Public Domain. Visit uk.ccli.com/ccl for more information.</p> <p>Details of the copyright owners of each song or hymn should be given beneath the words, including the author, the publisher and your CCLI licence number. For example:</p> <p><i>Fred Smiley © 2000 Happy Music Ltd, CCLI Licence No: 12345</i></p> <p>Songs used during weddings/funeral services should be reported. For further information visit uk.ccli.com/reporting.</p> <p>Some Roman Catholic publishers are not covered by CCLI, but may be covered by a Calamus licence from Decani Music. Details of the publishers covered by the Calamus licence can be found at decanimusic.co.uk.</p>
Scripture text and liturgy	Most publishers allow for a certain amount of scripture or liturgy to be reproduced for non-commercial purposes as long as appropriate acknowledgement is included. Always check the publication for details and the correct acknowledgement to use. If you are reproducing scripture text from websites such as biblegateway.com , always check their terms of use for what permission is given.
Images	The use of images in any documentation, including service sheets, will require you to have obtained prior permission from the copyright owner. This includes images and photographs found on the internet and those copied from a printed publication. Some clip art may be free to use in non-commercial situations. However, you should always check the copyright owner's terms before reproducing their images.

Live performance and playing commercial music recordings

Weddings and funerals are deemed to be private functions by PRS for Music and PPL. This means both live music and music recordings can be freely played in these services. However, a dubbing licence would be required if any sound recordings are played whilst recording takes place, or dubbed on afterwards. A Limited Manufacture Licence from PRS for Music will cover this. Visit [prsformusic.com/LM](https://www.prsformusic.com/LM) for details.

Recording church weddings and funerals

If the service is recorded, whether by a family member or a professional videographer, any live music performances or commercial music recordings captured (or dubbed on afterwards in post-production) will require permission. The Limited Manufacture Licence from PRS for Music is the best way to obtain this. Visit [prsformusic.com/LM](https://www.prsformusic.com/LM) for details.

Streaming church weddings and funerals

If your church makes weddings or funeral services available over the internet (live, or as a downloadable file) you should remember that a number of components will be involved, including live and/or recorded music, the liturgy, the sermon, any readings or dramatic performances etc. Each of these elements is covered by copyright, so before a service is made available over the internet, care should be taken to ensure that each element has been cleared for distribution by the appropriate copyright owner. In addition, permission must be sought from all musicians, readers, prayers and preachers before you record or broadcast their performance.

The web streaming of music protected by copyright is administered by the PRS for Music/MCPS* Limited Online Music Licence (LOML). This licence allows a number of small scale online services including:

- Limited download/on-demand streaming service
- Pure webcasting service (broadcasting your services over the internet)
- Interactive webcasting service (broadcasting with the ability for public interaction)
- Music podcasting

Tariffs for the LOML are based on a number of different factors including the number of streams and downloads per year. For more details about the LOML, visit [prsformusic.com/LOML](https://www.prsformusic.com/LOML).

*Mechanical-Copyright Protection Society

What is copyright?

Copyright is an intellectual property right given to the creators of original musical, literary and dramatic works. The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (CDPA) is the legislation that currently operates in the UK and provides the creator with two main rights:

Economic

this allows the creator to charge anyone who wishes to copy, perform or record their work for any commercial or non-commercial use.

Moral

this allows the creator to protect their work from any change which might be considered offensive or not in keeping with their wishes.

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This Fact File is provided for information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. If in doubt you should consult a legal expert. Whilst we aim to be as accurate as possible, CCLI can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information provided.