



**NATIONAL FORUM
OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS**
*The musical arm of the Archdiocese that strengthens and perpetuates
Greek Orthodox liturgical music in America*



Position Statement Regarding

COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS

Major revisions to United States copyright law occurred in 1976, followed by more recent amendments (Copyright Law of the United States and Related Laws Contained in Title 17 of the United States Code," dated December 2011). As a result, widespread abuses have been uncovered and prosecuted in churches, schools, and other organizations. This is a serious indictment on our religious and educational institutions.

The purpose of a copyright is to protect the ownership of creative activity, and to assure composers/arrangers, authors, and publishers of their rightful compensation. It is illegal, immoral, and considered stealing when copyrighted music is duplicated without permission from the owner of the copyright. Churches are no exception to the law. The end result of illegally photocopying music is that copyright holders lose money, the cost of music increases to help compensate for those losses, creative activity is stifled, and good people and ministries become compromised.

It is the position of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians to vigorously support the copyright law. The National Forum strongly urges all church musicians to become familiar with the law and to observe its provisions: music is not to be duplicated unless explicit permission is granted in writing from the copyright holder. Furthermore, the National Forum strongly recommends that parishes allocate reasonable funds in their annual budgets to allow for the purchase of new or replacement music for their musical activities.

Further information regarding the provisions of the copyright law with regards to church musicians may be obtained by writing the National Chairman.

(Adopted June 1985; Reviewed and updated 2015)