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## **APA ALERT UPDATE – The Copyright Registry ([www.C-Registry.us](http://www.C-Registry.us))**

On March 23, 2009, APA distributed an alert for photographers to be aware of concerns APA had with content, language and intent of The Copyright Registry, [www.c-registry.us](http://www.c-registry.us), a subsidiary of StockPhotoFinder.com. Last week there was a great deal of discussion between APA and The Copyright Registry to address APA's concerns. Ownership of The Copyright Registry was open to listening to APA's and other's concerns of the content, language and intent and provided answers to the questions APA submitted in our ALERT. The Copyright Registry's answers were a starting point for changes made on their website.

The results so far indicate The Copyright Registry is changing its site to address most of APA's concerns with the removal of language in their terms & conditions concerning Collective Representation, a clearer understanding that The Copyright Registry is not the U.S. Copyright Office or associated with the U.S. Copyright Office and that there is no current Orphan Works Act or legislation pending in the United States. They have also changed language on the issue of being able to "claim" your copyright even though one's copyright is only able to be supported in a legal forum by the U.S. Copyright Office.

The removal of Collective Representation from their terms & conditions is important since it was the language of most concern. It allowed The Copyright Registry to license on their own and use images in their registry as stock. Giving power to license images, in APA's opinion, was a conflict of interest for a "registry" set up to protect photographers work from becoming orphaned or from unauthorized uses to also act as a sales agent for those same photographers.

APA appreciates the efforts of The Copyright Registry to improve their product and website. Scrutiny often leads to a better, stronger product in the end. With most of our concerns addressed there has been improvement but APA will continue to monitor The Copyright Registry for continued changes that need to be done and to ensure return to old language is not happening.

APA believes registry of images in the long run may be positive if and when Orphan Works legislation is once again proposed and made into law. If new legislation follows the same intent as previous bills, the Library of Congress will certify official registries. Until that time arrives, if it does, be cautious and examine any claim for the need to register images before taking action.

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