

ANNUAL COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE DISCLOSURE

SUMMARY OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF FEDERAL COPYRIGHT LAWS

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under the Copyright Act (Title 17, United States Code, Section 106). These rights include, but are not limited to, the right to reproduce, mark deviations, or distribute a copyrighted work. In the file-sharing context, downloading, uploading, or playing substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority from the copyright owner constitutes an infringement.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or “statutory” damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed.

For “willful” infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys’ fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504–505.

Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense. For more information, review the U.S. Copyright Office website and related FAQ document at the following:
<http://www.copyright.gov/help/faq>.