

Copyrights for using You Tube Videos for Church and Live-Stream Service

Recently I received information from Church Tax & Law regarding the use of You Tube Videos in church and in a Live- Stream Service. Since the information given me wasn't allowed to be copied, I checked with Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI). Following is the CCLI response (which I am allowed to copy).

Showing YouTube Videos in Church

Here's a frequent question: Can we show YouTube videos in our church service? This question covers a wide spectrum of content: movie clips, lyric videos, the latest viral sensation, etc.

The answer: Only with prior permission from the copyright owner.

The written policy from YouTube's terms of service specifies that content on the site should only be accessed for "personal, non-commercial use" (5.L.) except where "YouTube or the respective licensors [the copyright owner] of the content" has given "prior written consent" (5.M.).

We have devoted an entire article to the specifics and different scenarios. For more information, read [Showing YouTube Videos In Church](#).

Streaming Church Services on Social Media

As live streaming and archived/on demand webcasting of worship services becomes more commonplace, churches ask the inevitable question: Is it legal?

Again, our answer is: You need the proper permission.

In 2011, CCLI added the [Streaming License](#) as a supplement to our [Copyright License](#). It is primarily intended to cover the live service webcasts on your church's website; however it also covers third-party social media platforms, like YouTube and Facebook.

There may be issues to sort through, however, if you use these platforms. As part of YouTube's video upload process, they will ask whether your video includes copyrighted content that you don't own. Typically, for church services that include music, the answer is yes. YouTube will then mandate that your video includes advertising, and the rightful copyright owner(s) will receive a share of that ad revenue.

Facebook's algorithms and search bots are particularly vigilant at identifying and removing videos with potential copyright violations. In the case of church services, Facebook does not initially account for videos that are covered by our Streaming License. So it may require correspondence with their support team to resolve.

We trust that this has been beneficial. If you have additional questions, feel free to [contact us \(CCLI\)](#). We're here to help.

Blessings to all as we continue to worship in new ways.

Kay Weaver

ANE Director of Stewardship

