

Chilling Effects

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Monitoring the legal climate for Internet activity



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Chilling Effects Clearinghouse

Site Guide

A joint project of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and Harvard, Stanford, Berkeley, University of San Francisco, University of Maine, George Washington School of Law, and Santa Clara University School of Law clinics.

Do you know your online rights? Have you received a letter asking you to remove information from a Web site or to stop engaging in an activity? Are you concerned about liability for information that someone else posted to your online forum? If so, this site is for you.

Chilling Effects aims to help you understand the protections that the First Amendment and intellectual property laws give to your online activities. We are excited about the new opportunities the Internet offers individuals to express their views, parody politicians, celebrate their favorite movie stars, or criticize businesses. But we've noticed that not everyone feels the same way. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some individuals and corporations are using intellectual property and other laws to silence other online users. Chilling Effects encourages respect for intellectual property law, while frowning on its misuse to "chill" legitimate activity.

The website offers background material and explanations of the law for people whose websites deal with topics such as [Fan Fiction](#), [Copyright](#), [Domain Names and Trademarks](#), [Anonymous Speech](#), and [Defamation](#).

In addition, we want your help. We are gathering a [searchable database](#) of Cease and Desist notices sent to Internet users like you. We invite you to [input](#) Cease and Desist letters that you've received into our database, to document the chill. We will respond by linking the legalese in the letters to FAQs that explain the allegations in plain English.

Periodically, we issue "weather reports" assessing the climate for Internet activity based on the letters we receive and news reports. What areas (topics, legal categories, jurisdictions) are coolest to online conduct? What activities risk being frozen out altogether? What conduct gets the warmest reception?

Getting Started:

The Chilling Effects Clearinghouse contains multiple topic areas. [Choose a topic area](#) to view its introduction, Frequently Asked Questions, and annotated Cease & Desist notices, along with reference material and recent news links.

If you are visiting because you have received a Cease & Desist notice, we invite you to [input your notice in the database](#). Questions on the submission form will

Recently Linked Cease & Desists

- [Demonstrating That It Appreciates The Golden Rule, Sharman Sends Cease and Desist, Sharman License Holdings](#), March 29, 2005
- [Perfect 10 Complains Again \(#7\)](#), *Perfect 10, Inc.*, May 7, 2005
- [Scientists Say Hurry Up With The Takedown, Religious Technology Center](#), April 20, 2005
- [Perfect 10 Complains Again \(#4\)](#), *Perfect 10, Inc.*, April 3, 2005
- [Wal-Mart Puts a High Price on Parody, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.](#), April 18, 2005
- [More Infringement Claims from Star's Edge, Star's Edge International](#), April 19, 2005
- [DMCA complaints -- Easy as "123"](#), *SilverSource.com* [more](#)

Related News

Clearinghouse Topics:

- [Copyright and DMCA](#)
- [Fan Fiction](#)
- [John Doe](#)
- [Anonymity](#)
- [Linking](#)
- [Patent](#)
- [Protest, Parody and Criticism](#)
- [Trade Secret](#)
- [Trademark](#)



Topic maintained by [Chilling Effects](#)

help to categorize your letter, and then guide you toward topic areas for further information. Once the notice is in our database, clinical law students will be able to annotate it with questions and answers.

[Sample Cease and Desist Letter with Analysis](#)

Conceived and developed at the [Berkman Center for Internet & Society](#), Chilling Effects is a [joint project](#) of the [Electronic Frontier Foundation](#) (EFF) and clinics at Harvard Law School's [Stanford Law School's Center for Internet & Society](#), Boalt Hall's [Samuelson Law, Technology and Public Policy Clinic](#), and other law schools across the country.

XML Syndicate our newest linked C&D notices: [RSS feed](#)

New: **XML** Syndicate our weather reports (news updates): [Weather RSS feed](#)

For more information, see the [Frequently Asked Questions about Chilling Effects Clearinghouse](#).

- [EFF Publishes Legal Guide for Bloggers](#), *Electronic Frontier Foundation*, June 13, 2005
- [Google DMCA Takedowns: A three-month view](#), Michael Davis-Wilson, *Electronic Frontier Foundation* volunteer, June 2, 2005
- [Always Low Prices weblog C&D'd by Walmart](#), *Always Low Prices weblog*, April 6, 2005
- [FEPP Reports on Fair Use and Cease and Desist Letters](#), Tricia Beckles and Marjorie Heins, *Free Expression Policy Project*, February 4, 2005
- [AP sends cease-and-desist letter to BCS](#), Associated Press, *USA Today*, December 21, 2004

[more](#)

Related Resources

- [Cease and Desist](#), (introduction)
- [Build Your Own DMCA Counter-Notice](#), (form)
- [Letter to Warner Brothers: A Night in Casablanca](#), *Groucho Marx* (letter)
- ["The Progress of Science and Useful Arts": Why copyright today threatens intellectual freedom](#), *Free Expression Policy Project* (policy paper)
- [illegal-art.org](#), *Stay Free!*

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