

Copyright Infringement Policy

Stanbridge University

FILESHARING AND COPYRIGHT

Stanbridge University provides access to various materials, services and equipment for its campus community and does not permit or allow infringement of federal copyright law. Transmitting or downloading any material by use of the university's network including use of peer-to-peer (P2P) applications that you do not have the right to make available and that infringes any patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright or other proprietary rights of any party is prohibited.

Installing or distributing pirated or unlicensed software is also forbidden such as P2P applications or any other online source or otherwise. Violation of these requirements may subject students, faculty and staff to civil and criminal liabilities. Any campus members, including students, faculty or staff, who violate federal copyright law do so at their own risk and without any permission or authorization from the university. Copyright status is applied to a work as soon as it is created. Users should assume that all writings and images are copyrighted.

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES AND SANCTIONS

Stanbridge University takes steps to detect and punish users who illegally distribute copyrighted materials. The university reserves the right to suspend or terminate network access to any campus member user that violates this policy. Violations may be reported to appropriate authorities for criminal or civil prosecution. The existence and imposition of sanctions do not protect members of the campus community from any legal action by external entities.

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 section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work. In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority 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, please see the Web site of the U.S. Copyright Office at www.copyright.gov, especially their FAQ's at www.copyright.gov/help/faq.

ALTERNATIVES TO ILLEGAL DOWNLOADING

Illegal downloads hurt authors and deter the incentive to create. U.S. laws protect the rights of individuals regarding their own works. We strongly encourage you to use [legal files sharing services](#) for obtaining music, movies, TV, games, books, etc. on the Internet.