

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
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*"The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator."*

*My name is William J Gerber Jr owner of Billy G Photography located in Bridgeton NJ, I would like to tell my story about a copyright violation of my creative work. More and more of us are using the internet to advertise our fine art and other creative works, where we can be seen by a larger number of prospective clients and followers of our work, however it is very easy to copy and use our online creative works we use to market ourselves. We need stronger fines and regulations for both registered and non-registered visual copyright works. I also believe that more artist would register their copyrighted work if the online registration would be more user friendly with all internet browsers such as Safari for mac and more.*

*Here's my story, with the economy being on the downside it is not uncommon to trade services. I was approached by a want to be actor who was somewhat of a friend (I thought) in need of some head shots. I thought about it and told him that I have been working on some lighting techniques that I wanted to test, we were in verbal agreement and that he would buy prints from my online site. We did his shoot, I did the editing and retouching and posted the Images on an online private Gallery (that was right click protected) we made some final selection and I posted one image on all of my web sites with my studio name on the image. We made several appointments to test and each time on the day of the shoot he would cancel at this point I knew I was played. While on my Facebook account a came across his profile using one of the head shot and also he removed my studio name (it's easy to upload works to the internet all you have to have to do is CLICK the box that says that you are the creator of what your uploading) I ask him to remove the image he did not, I had the image remove, I also stumbled across this image and more that was uploaded to printing/image sharing site where he could link to that image to many other sites such as Actor, modeling and so on (using my Images without purchasing a usage license) order prints for casting calls and so on. Not only did I lose money on prints, comp cards,usage licensing I also lost on any prospective clients by the removal of my studio name and any rightful credits to me or my studio!*

*With the economy being low and tightening my belt I did not register the Image within the three months of the allotted time frame before this violation. I am left to file in civil court to recover only for loss of fees and services. very time consuming. Copyright theft should go on your record, preventing you from using the internet for advertising business purposes and given another chance to commit online fraud. Civil matters related to copyrights should have harsher fines and less tolerance..*

*Please help us visual artist and all creative intellectuals where it's tough to make a living to start with, then have profits taken by a common online thief. Please Protect us!  
copyrights,creators are the backbone of our country*

*Thanks for giving me this opportunity to be heard..*

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Billy G Photography

William J Gerber Jr

[www.billygphotography.net](http://www.billygphotography.net)