

Federal law requires that all colleges and universities provide their students with the following important information regarding United States Copyright law and the consequences of violating this law. Violations of US Copyright law <u>are serious and carry stiff penalties.</u>

## Know the Facts

- I. Unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, may subject you to civil and criminal liabilities.
- II. 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.
- III. 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.

## DDA Policy Regarding Copyright Violations

Diesel Driving Academy ("DDA") has a zero tolerance policy for students found to have violated US Copyright law using DDA's information technology systems, including but not limited to, all DDA computers and networks. Any student that is suspected of such a violation will be immediately subjected to an internal investigation. If the investigation shows that the student did violate US Copyright law, the student will be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal from DDA.

DDA will fully cooperate and work with any law enforcement agency investigating a potential violation of US Copyright law through the use of DDA information systems. angelagu@lsu.edu

## Legal Alternatives

As technology has improved, a large number of sites have been created to provide individuals with legal access to copyrighted content such as movies, television shows and music. Many of these sites provide this content free of charge. For a list of alternative legal sources of copyrighted content please visit, http://www.educause.edu/legalcontent.