

Web site Content Theft

For About.com

By Janice Byers

But what if contacting the offender and asking them to remove your image(s) doesn't work? Unfortunately, you may run across someone who refuses to respond to your initial email request to take your material off their web site. In such a case, let an appropriate amount of time from your previous correspondence go by before sending a second email about the copyright infringement.

Another step would be to send a snail mail letter to the web site owner. If that still fails to generate any action, you can consider sending the letter by some form of delivery that requires a signature of receipt.

Once all efforts to contact the web site owner have been exhausted, it is time to go to other sources. Your next step would be to contact the hosting company of the web site and advise them of the copyright infringement offence and what you would like done about the situation. Again, portray your professionalism. Generally, after the hosting company has thoroughly checked out your claims, they will approach their client and request that the offending material be omitted. If the web site owner does not heed the warnings of the hosting company, they will usually end up with their web site being removed from the web server and thus, from the Internet.

Slandering the offender or telling others who are linked on their page about how the offender stole your material or telling the organizations that the owner is a member of about their plagiarism is not recommended. This is a divisive maneuver and generally reflects poorly on you. That brings us to your last option, prosecution. As each situation will be unique, the best person to get advice from is an attorney. If possible, get a referral from any of your local associates.

For the complete article:

<http://sbinfocanada.about.com/cs/legalmatters/a/websitetheftjb.htm>

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