



World Service Office Copyright Guidelines



All OA literature and the OA logo are protected under US copyright law, and that copyright is owned solely by Overeaters Anonymous, Inc. No one, including OA members or service bodies, can legally reprint or reproduce excerpts from OA literature without written permission from the World Service Office. There are some exceptions, which will be discussed later in this article.

OA literature is the main source of revenue for our Fellowship. Respecting OA's copyright is a way of guarding our Seventh Tradition of self-support. Developing literature is one way that we fulfill OA's primary purpose—to carry the message of recovery to the suffering compulsive overeater. When service bodies reprint literature at will, thus denying revenue to the Fellowship through literature sales, they make it difficult for OA as a whole to fulfill its Seventh-Tradition directive.

It is also important that the corporation of Overeaters Anonymous keep records that show it is actively protecting its copyrights. This action protects the corporation's interests in court should a conflict regarding copyright infringement arise. In an effort to ease the paperwork burden on OA groups and service bodies, the OA's copyright policy is now as follows:

All registered OA groups and service bodies have permission to reprint any OA material currently on the OA Web site (downloadable PDF files or text) without having to submit a written request to the WSO. The materials listed below may also be reprinted without written permission:

1. *The Twelve Steps of OA*
2. *The Twelve Traditions of OA*

3. *The Twelve Concepts of OA Service*
4. *The OA Preamble*
5. *I Put My Hand in Yours* promise
6. *The Responsibility Pledge*
7. *Fifteen Questions*
8. *About OA* (flyer)
9. "Welcome Home" from the Lifeline Sampler, pp. 173-174

It is requested that those using the above material credit the source and Overeaters Anonymous, Inc., as the holder of the copyright. Other materials not requiring written reprint permission from the WSO are:

1. OA service bodies may reprint articles from *A Step Ahead*, the *Courier* and the no-longer-published WSO *Notebook* without permission as long as credit is given (e.g., "From *A Step Ahead*, Fall 1996. Copyright 1996 by Overeaters Anonymous, Inc.").
2. Individual Lifeline articles may be reprinted by registered OA service bodies for limited personal and group use. They may not be revised, recombined into other publications or resold. All other uses require written permission from Overeaters Anonymous, Inc.
3. Many well-known slogans and sayings (such as "one day at a time," "easy does it" and the Serenity Prayer) require no approval.