

Rusty-Harold-Elliott-20050314080002

To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 03/14/2005

From: Elliott Rusty Harold
Address1: Dept of Computer Science, Polytechnic University

Comment:

I am an author with over a dozen books to my credit at various publishers, some still in print, some not. I make a large chunk of my living through copyright. That said, I have no children and if my wife and I were in a car crash or some such, I doubt any of our heirs would have interest in making my work available, and I'd want it to outlive me. I would very much want people not to have jump through hoops to use my work after my death. I would not want my books to be orphaned. The copyright laws should not unnecessarily restrict the usage of works for which no one is willing to make reasonable efforts to license. In the past, copyrights expired quickly enough that this wasn't a major issue. However, this is no longer the case. Regardless of what action you take, I think I may need to revisit my will to explore possibilities for assigning my work following my demise. However, if I'm hit by a bus tomorrow before I can do this, I'd hope my work could still be available to the public for whatever value they may find in it.