

S.L.A.A. Copyright and Logos Update

Introduction

In 2010, the Conference Literature Committee (CLC) expressed its concern for protection of the drafts of literature that circulate in the Fellowship. On the one hand the members need to read and provide feedback, and on the other hand drafts are distributed far and wide sometimes into other “S” Fellowship communities.

The question was how to protect the S.L.A.A. copyrights and logos. This question was referred to the Copyright-Translation subcommittee (CTS). The CTS is a subcommittee of the BFOC (Board Finance and Operating Committee) that originated in 2009 with two attorneys. One specializes in copyright/trademarks, and is a member, who has volunteered her time and legal opinion on more than one occasion to the Fellowship.

Scope

This article provides the most recent information about the protection, use and permissions required with regards to the intellectual property of S.L.A.A.

Protection of Draft S.L.A.A. Literature and Copyright

Any draft piece of literature written for any S.L.A.A. Conference committee becomes the property of The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A., Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc. as soon as it is reduced to writing. That is the legal name of the non-profit corporation of S.L.A.A. In 1982, the founder and board members decided to incorporate the Twelve-Step program of S.L.A.A. to protect legally the intellectual property being developed, which at that time was the S.L.A.A. Basic Text©1986.

Copyright is a form of protection provided by the laws of the United States to the authors of original works, and it is available to published and unpublished materials. It is illegal for anyone to violate any of the rights provided by the copyright law to the owner of copyright.

These rights include reproducing, distributing copies, authorizing translations, displaying publicly or by means of a digital audio transmission in the case of sound recordings.

Statements for Draft Literature

The appropriate copyright notation for all draft or Conference-approved literature established by the CTS is:

**©year The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A., Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc.
All Rights Reserved.**

The *All Rights Reserved* is particular to international copyright for which S.L.A.A. is also protected and is especially helpful as S.L.A.A. materials have been translated into 13 languages to date and new ones added annually.

In earlier publications you may see variations of the copyright notice; all are acceptable and are changed upon reprinting by the F.W.S. Office. It is important, however, that all new and draft literature carry the notice as provided above.

The CLC also requests that draft literature includes the statement “Draft Literature. Not Conference Approved.” Using the word “draft” as a watermark on each page may also be applied for longer drafts.

Registering a Copyright

Copyright registration is a legal formality intended to make a public record of the copyright; it is not a condition of copyright protection. The S.L.A.A. Basic Text was registered with the U.S. Copyright Office and is protected for 95 years from publication or until 2081. The only advantage to registering is if someone infringed upon the copyright it could be taken to court. It is rare for Twelve Step programs to go to court out of deference to the Traditions (particularly Tradition 10 and public controversy), but also because the costs could bankrupt small organizations such as S.L.A.A.

Use of S.L.A.A. Logos

S.L.A.A. has registered at least 4 different logos since 1982. The current classic logo with life preserver registration lapsed in June 2006. Registration is renewable every 10 years. The classic logo below has now been re-registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark office on November 23, 2010 and is good for 10 years, until 2020.

F.W.S. requires that all members to use the classic logo with the ® in the lower right-hand as shown. This logo is used on all pamphlets sold by the F.W.S. Office.



There is a second coin logo developed by the F.W.S. Webmaster for the F.W.S. Website in 2008. (And yes, she signed an assignment of copyright and all future creative works to S.L.A.A.) This logo does not print well but is great on the website and if high quality printing is used can be seen on posters/flyers announcing various S.L.A.A. events. This may be used by members as long as it has the SM (service mark) in the upper right-hand corner as shown.



In earlier S.L.A.A. pamphlets the ® and © were used after the name of **Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous®**. The copyright attorney has suggested removing these notations.

Permission to Use, Copy or Reprint S.L.A.A. Materials

A BOT motion from June 1999 established the copyright, logo and use of some S.L.A.A. materials by members:

“All S.L.A.A. groups/Intergroups currently registered with F.W.S. have permission to use the S.L.A.A. logo, reprint the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Recommended Guidelines, and reproduce up to 300 words from S.L.A.A. Conference-approved copyrighted materials. All S.L.A.A. logo reproductions must include the trademark symbol. All citations must include the source of the citation and the statement ‘Reprinted with permission, as registered group#_____, by The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A., Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc.’ This copyrighted material shall not be presented with any citations of literature copyrighted by anyone other than The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A., Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc. or a registered S.L.A.A. group/intergroup.”

Recently an Intergroup requested to copy the page on the history of the ABC/M from the **Conference Service Manual** June 2009. Since Groups/Intergroups are being asked to register and obtain new ID#s the following permission to reprint was recommended:

© 2009 The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A., Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc.
All rights reserved. S.L.A.A. Conference Service Manual June 2009 p1.
Reprinted with permission as a registered Intergroup (ID #).

How to Use the 8 Core Documents of S.L.A.A.

The 8 Core Documents of S.L.A.A. in order of priority for translation and beginning the program of recovery are:

1. **Twelve Steps**
2. **Twelve Traditions**
3. **Twelve Concepts**
4. **S.L.A.A. Preamble**
5. **Characteristics of Sex and Love Addiction**
6. **40 Questions for Self-Diagnosis**
7. **Signs of Recovery**
8. **12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with the Media**

These basic documents for starting a meeting are posted on the F.W.S. Website and include the appropriate copyright notice. It is preferred that S.L.A.A. Group/Intergroup websites ***link to this page directly*** as it provides the information including the disclaimer for the S.L.A.A. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions that is required by A.A. World Services Inc. The A.A. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions must be copied after printing the S.L.A.A. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with this disclaimer in small print (including in other languages).

The **8 Core Documents of S.L.A.A.** has been a project initiated and coordinated by the Conference Translations Committee (CTC) with approval by the Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC) and help from the CTS and Web Team. It is truly amazing how the message is carried worldwide while respecting the legal and business-side of the Fellowship of recovery.

In service,
Steve B.
CTS chair
Board member
August 2011

Document approved August 2011 CTS/BFOC and BOT