

## **Copyright Infringement**

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.

In accordance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA), Colorado Christian University hereby notifies you that the illegal distribution of copyrighted materials may subject you to criminal and civil penalties. Specifically, you may not stream or download any copyright-protected materials. As required by the "Digital Millennium Copyright Act" (DMCA), the University will respond promptly to complaints submitted by DMCA copyright holders. This response may include a preliminary investigation by IST and possible disciplinary referral to the applicable CCU department. 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. 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.