

FROM: Chris Spurgeon
Title:

Date: Thu, 24 Feb 2005 15:45:54 -0500
Comment:

A couple of years ago, my in-laws were going to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, so my wife and I decided to throw them a party. In preparation, I took old portrait photos of my in-laws to a local photo shop to have enlargements made (we wanted to display the enlargements at the party). The photo shop refused to make copies of the photos, since...according to the shop, the shop that took the photos still had the copyright, and they could get in trouble for making copies. The facts that a) the photos were at least 40 years old, b) we had no idea what portrait studio originally took the photos, much less if it still existed, c) my in-laws *hired* the studios to take the photos in the first place, and d) the enlargements would only be displayed in a private party...all made no difference. The shop's fear of the potential penalties for even this extraordinary slight chance of copyright violation kept them from performing the enlargements (not to mention making a hundred bucks in the process). So we don't get to have a nice little surprise at a family party, and a local business doesn't get to make a little money, all because of an unfortunate clause in copyright law.

-- END OF COMMENT --