

Frank Ramos

### Comment on Orphan Copyright Works

There seems to be an assumption that everyone who applies for copyright protection wants maximum protection for the maximum possible length of time. I think this is false, and that many authors would prefer a lower degree of protection that is the default under current copyright law. There are other motives than money for production of creative works. Fame, publicity, the satisfaction of seeing one's name in print, or hearing one's composition played on the radio, and so on. I think the copyright office should provide guidance to applicants on how to reduce their rights, if they so choose. Perhaps the copyright office could establish categories of protection, and checkboxes on the current application forms to select which category is desired. The default category would be the current protection provided by law, and then there would be categories which provide less protection.

Of course, what I am suggesting doesn't really solve the problem of someone asking for maximum protection and then leaving the work orphaned. However, it is an idea that would to some extent reduce that problem. It doesn't require any legislation and is easy and cheap to implement.

Sincerely,

Frank F. Ramos