

U.S. Copyright Office -- New Rules for Online Service Provider Designation of Agents

The U.S. Copyright Office has updated its rules for online service providers to register designated agents as to notifications of claimed copyright infringement. Service providers, which can include any website permitting users to post on the site, can take advantage of a "safe harbor" from liability for unknowingly hosting infringing materials submitted by other entities. To be eligible for this safe harbor, however, providers must register their designated agents with the Copyright Office. Online registration is now required. Agents may now be designated by title (Claims Manager, or the like) or department (Legal, or the like) as well as by name. Third parties (such as a law firm) may now serve as designated agents. Service providers have until December 31, 2017, to electronically file their agent designations, which now must be renewed every three years. To learn more, feel free to contact Jeff Myers or look to <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/11/01/2016-26257/designation-of-agent-to-receive-notification-of-claimed-infringement>.