

As an author and writer of articles, this is an issue I have often faced. In one case, the company that I showed as copyright holder had changed so completely that it wasn't even aware it held the copyright in question. We worked that out by email.

I have assumed the Copyright Office is not in itself an information source, and have never written that office asking for a copyright holder's address. That is, perhaps, a means to resolve the issue, but I am sure it would involve extensive addition of staff, which I doubt Congress would support.

In another case, I carefully kept copies of eight letters I wrote attempting to locate the person to ask for copyright clearance on one picture, and the four responses received (which said they didn't know who held the copyright), and went ahead and used the picture. I suggest consideration of a regulation or legislation something on that order--that the requestor document a sincere, good faith effort to locate the copyright holder.

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