

C.A.R. Forms and Copyright Law

Are C.A.R. standard forms protected by copyright law?

Yes. C.A.R. standard forms, including forms available in zipForm®, are protected by copyright law.

What kind of protection does copyright law provide?

A copyright gives the owner of the copyright the exclusive right to do, and to authorize others to do, certain things with respect to the copyrighted work, such as the right to reproduce and distribute the work.

What is copyright infringement?

Copyright infringement is the unauthorized use of a copyrighted work in a way that violates any of the copyright owner's exclusive rights in the work. For example, if done without authorization from the copyright owner, making copies of a copyrighted work or posting a copyrighted work on the Internet would constitute copyright infringement.

What are some impermissible uses of C.A.R. standard forms?

- Unauthorized reproduction (including photocopying, faxing, or emailing) of blank or partially blank copies of C.A.R. standard forms;
- Unauthorized display of blank or partially blank C.A.R. standard forms on the Internet or in any other manner;
- Printing blank or partially blank C.A.R. standard forms from zipForm® (zipForm® is intended to be used as an electronic forms-filling software program);
- Altering any pre-printed language in C.A.R. standard forms;
- Using C.A.R. standard forms in a manner that is not related to a specific real estate transaction and/or not within the scope of the agent's or broker's representation of a party. For example, selling or otherwise offering C.A.R. standard forms as a separate product is impermissible.

May fully completed C.A.R. standard forms be photocopied, faxed, or emailed?

Yes, as long as it is done in relation to a specific real estate transaction and is within the scope of the agent's or broker's representation of a party. For example, C.A.R. does not consider emailing a signed purchase contract to a client to be copyright infringement.