

Copyrighted Materials

It has come to the notice of the ABSLT Executive Committee that some BSL tutors are using copyrighted materials on their courses.

Every tutor should be aware that if they use copyrighted materials in their lessons, without the permission of the copyright owner, they or their college, or both, could be sued for breach of copyright.

They could also be liable, even if they have been given or obtained permission to use copyrighted materials, if they remove the copyright symbol [©] from the material.

There are many books that can be obtained from the education department in large bookstores that contain pictures and other materials that are not copyrighted and can be copied without restriction.

One such book is “1001 Pictures for Teachers to Copy” and there are many more.

It is safer to create your own materials – they can be just text, drawings, simple road maps, etc. You do not have to be good at drawing to make a useful material, drawing matchstick men/women is perfectly acceptable and can be used to introduce or practise a wide range of topics.

One such material can be found on pages 14 & 15 of this newsletter, it is very simple but very effective for teaching and practising the signs for “family”.

All books, etc. that are copyrighted have the name and address of the copyright owner in them – usually at the back or on the inside cover - so, if you especially want to use a material from that publication – contact the owner and get permission first.

Charles Herd