

**From:** [Need To Know](#)  
**To:** [Need To Know](#)  
**Bcc:** [allstudentgrp@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:allstudentgrp@montgomerycollege.edu); [Feehan, Patrick J](#); [Spencer, Suzette](#); [Davidson, Maria T](#)  
**Subject:** Policy Notice on Copyright Violations  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 3:20:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [HEOA - Copyright and Peer-to-Peer - Fall 2020.pdf](#)

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Memorandum

Office of Information Technology

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**To:** Montgomery College Students  
**From:** Patrick Feehan, Information Security & Privacy Director  
Suzette Spencer, Director of the Library  
**Subject:** **Policy Notice on Copyright Violations**  
**Date:** September 15, 2020

Welcome to the fall 2020 semester at Montgomery College. It is our goal to provide our students with a safe and powerful computing environment. We encourage students to fully participate in the Internet experience and in the free exercise of individual rights and academic freedoms. At the same time, we cannot permit our computer resources to be used for illegal purposes.

Montgomery College is required under the Higher Education Opportunity Act to notify you of the following information:

- Use of the College's technology resources for illegal file sharing of copyrighted works including music, videos, games, etc. using peer-to-peer (P2P) software is illegal. It violates both the U.S. Copyright Act, and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998. The Library's copyright libguide is a helpful resource: <https://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/copyright>.
- Downloading copyrighted music, videos, or games for personal use without permission from the copyright owner can result in a criminal penalty of 5 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines (for first offense) or a civil penalty of a \$750 per song. The music and motion picture industries take these offenses very seriously, and hundreds of students who shared files of copyrighted materials have been the targets of expensive lawsuits for copyright infringement.
- The *Montgomery College Student Code of Conduct and the Acceptable Use Policy* ("AUP") both prohibit the use of the College's technology resources to violate copyright law.

You can read the AUP online at [Acceptable Use Policy](#).

- As providers of your Internet service, Montgomery College is required by law to divulge your name and address to the authorities if a complaint is received about your illegal file-sharing activities. Montgomery College must honor all legitimate warrants, subpoenas, and court orders.

- Montgomery College is required to take action to discourage illegal file sharing of copyrighted works, and as a result the College:
  - blocks the illegal sharing of files across our network,
  - employs network tools to detect this activity and to identify violators, and
  - relies on an aggressive antivirus system to raise overall network efficiency and to provide a safe computing environment.

At Montgomery College, **copyright infringement is strictly prohibited**. Therefore, please use alternative and legal sites for finding copyrighted materials. You can find a current list of [licensed music, movie, TV shows and book providers here](#).

It is our intention to strictly enforce College policy, and we will obey and comply with all legitimate government laws and regulations. Please assist by carefully reading this information and abiding by the laws and regulations. You can refer to Montgomery College copyright policy (68101 - [Use of Copyrighted Materials](#)), which explains the policy and procedures. You also can refer to a tutorial on plagiarism created by MC librarians: <https://www.softchalkcloud.com/lesson/serve/cafVBuijknhpyr/html>.

If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Feehan at [cybersecurity@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:cybersecurity@montgomerycollege.edu) or 240-567-3000.

Best wishes for an outstanding semester!