

## Counterfeiting and Copyright Laws

Printers must always be aware of possible violations of the law when it comes to legal restrictions of printing in the United States. The most common legal problems relate to copyrights, photocopying, software piracy, counterfeiting and the publication of obscene literature.

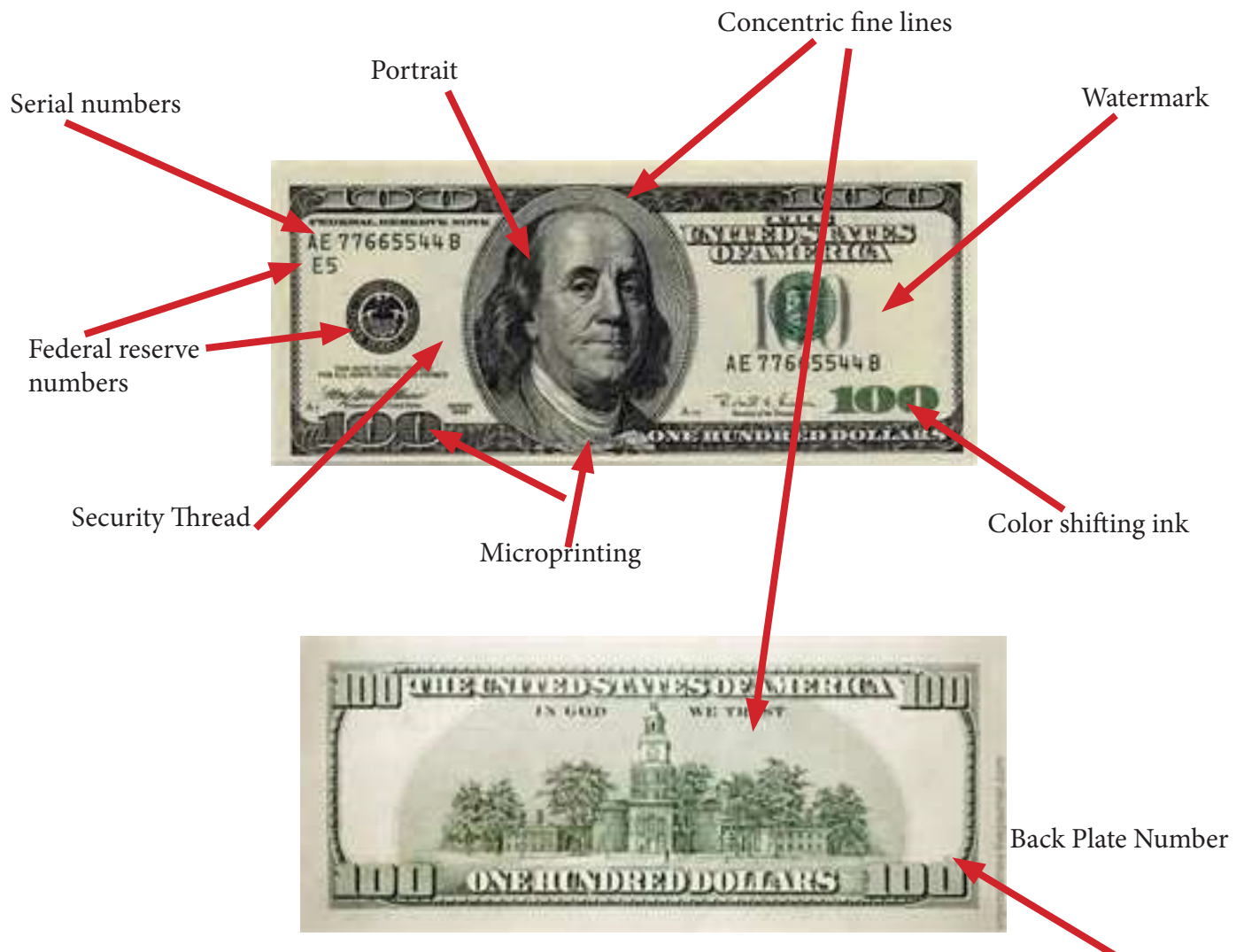
Copyrights include, but are not limited to, literary, musical, dramatic, pictorial, graphic, sculptural, sound recording and architectural works. Printers should have a standard form for customers to sign releasing the printer from liability of copyright infringement. This is the unauthorized use of copyrighted work. Copywritten works created after January 1, 1978 have a duration of a lifetime of the creator and extends for 50 years after the death of that person. International protection of copyrights vary depending on the national laws of the country. Exceptions to photocopying without permission are allowed. This is known as fair use provision of the law. The most common example is in education.

Any use of unlicensed computer software programs is software piracy. This can lead to large fines and lawsuits for copyright infringement. Manufacturers are protected by the *End-User License Agreement*. EULA covers the legal conditions under which software products may be installed or used. Multiple copies and site licenses should be purchased and used in accordance with purchasing agreements.

Counterfeiting is defined as imitating or copying closely with intent to deceive. Counterfeiting is usually associated with money and works of art. Any requests for printing or photocopying that would seem to violate any federal regulations should be reported to the Department of Treasury.

Obscene literature is described as any material considered offensive to morality or virtue. Printing, drawings and photographs that might be classified as obscene requires careful legal review. The US Supreme Court ruled in 1973 that the standards for judging obscenity could be drawn up by the people of each community. This gave communities more control over the publication and distribution of pornography.

*Special features have been added to US currency to deter counterfeiting.*



Name\_\_\_\_\_

1. Define copyright infringement:
2. What is the length of time of a copyright established after January 1, 1978 ?
3. What is the fair use provision of the law when photocopying ?
4. Define software piracy :
5. What does the acronym EULA stand for ?
6. What protection does EULA provide for the software manufacturers ?
7. Define counterfeiting:
8. Define obscene literature:
9. What did the US Supreme Court decide in 1978 about obscene literature ?
10. What liberty did this give individual communities pertaining to obscene literature ?