Copyright reform and what it means for your wedding photos

Think carefully about those bridal bunny-ear filters. The new law is a welcome update, but there's much for newlyweds to consider in sharing images and crediting them.

David Tan
For The Straits Times

Copyright reform is not usually something that captures public attention. Changes to the Act that were passed on Monday in Parliament have profound implications for data analytics and collective management organisations. But the impact is on wedding photos that get people saying “I do not believe this.”

Unlike the court battle won by photographer Nicki Henderson, whose petition has now been granted to allow her to freely distribute copies of her prestigious photographs, a photograph made by her could now be subject to copyright reform.

The Copyright Act was enacted in 1869 and has been largely based on the copyright regimes of the United Kingdom and Australia throughout. Major revisions were made in 1998, 1999 and 2004, to align with international norms of bilateral treaties, and to be relevant to content created, distributed and consumed digitally.

A significant public consultation exercise was carried out which culminated in the introduction of a new, modern Copyright Bill 2021. July this year which sought to replace the Copyright Act 1967 in its entirety, and which has now been passed.

In this article, a number of changes to the new Act that will allow creation of photographs, portraits, engravings, sound recordings and films are discussed. But it is important to note that the changes are not definitive of copyright and do not affect the rights of authors or creators.

The changes are part of a move that will allow creators of photographs, portraits, engravings, sound recordings and films to be the default first owners of the copyright, even if they are commissioned to make them.

The move is intended to refresh Singapore's laws and maintain a balance between innovation and copyright remix.

The issue of fairness is often discussed in the context of copyright law. The right to use someone's work under certain conditions is called the "fair use" doctrine.

One of the main issues with the new law is that it makes it easier for people to use someone else's work without permission.

The new law will allow for a more flexible approach to copyright, allowing for the use of materials in a more creative way.

The changes are intended to make it easier for people to use images, music, and other creative works in their personal or professional lives, without having to seek permission or pay royalties.

However, the changes are not without controversy. Some people believe that the new law will make it too easy for people to use others' work without attribution, which could lead to plagiarism or other forms of copyright infringement.

The changes to copyright law are significant, and they will have a major impact on how people use and share images and other creative works. It is important to understand the implications of these changes, and to use them in a responsible and ethical way.