



# “Bittorrent” Lawsuits

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**Q** My neighbor just got sued by a movie studio that says she downloaded a movie using “bittorrent.” She’s never heard of the movie or bittorrent. What can she do?

**A** She should contact an attorney. There has been a flood of copyright lawsuits in federal court, both here in Oregon and elsewhere around the country, alleging copyright infringement by “John Doe” defendants accused of downloading movies using the “bittorrent” protocol - a popular technology that has many legitimate uses, but which can also be used to share unauthorized content. In many instances, people have been sued by mistake. If your neighbor cannot afford an attorney, she can ask for help from the federal court’s pro bono program. See <https://ord.uscourts.gov/index.php/2015-02-10-16-10-22/applying-for-pro-bono> for details.