

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](mailto:FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty)  
**Cc:** [info@copyrightalliance.org](mailto:info@copyrightalliance.org)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Last Chance to give the Obama Administration Advice  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 1:09:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [Brian Littrell Original Article.png](#)  
[Brian Littrell unauthorized usage.png](#)  
[Leibowitz Backstage Example.png](#)  
[Brian Littrell No Images.png](#)

Dear Ms. Espinel --

The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator. As a professional photographer my livelihood and my career depend on unique images and intellectual property. My ability to receive income and control the use of my images has a direct impact on the success or failure of my business. I cannot succeed as a photographer if my images and other creative products (videos, multimedia slide shows) are copied, distributed or sold without my permission or knowledge.

With the growth of the internet over the last few years theft of my images has become rampant.

There are several areas where theft of my images occurs on a regular basis. Here are several examples:

1. On a recent shoot of Brian Littrell for People magazine, the day the magazine hit the newstands, my images rapidly spread across the internet via blogs and fan sites. These sites are for profit sites that use my images without my permission. This is a common occurrence that happens so frequently and so rapidly that it's impossible for me, as an individual artist, to find and request removal of all the images.

Here is the original article and one example of a photograph from this shoot being used without permission and without credit: <http://www.babble.com/CS/blogs/famecrawler/archive/tags/Karl+Erikson/default.aspx?PageIndex=3>

**BACKSTREET BOY BRIAN LITRELL**

# Fighting for Our Son

With doctors initially unable to diagnose their 6-year-old's Kawasaki Disease, the singer and his wife became their child's greatest advocates

BY MARISA LAUDADIO

"It's been an emotional roller coaster," says Brian Littrell and Leighanne and Raylee at their L.A. home.

"I was a happy 6th birthday for Raylee Littrell. His first tooth wiggled free in late February after a fried chicken dinner at the Jubahay's Home Cooking restaurant near his home in Atlanta. "The tooth fairy came!" Raylee says proudly. "He brought me a dollar."

At age 6, Raylee has had to endure much scarier milestones. Two months earlier the son of Backstreet Boy Brian Littrell and his wife, Leighanne, an accessories designer, was hospitalized after a series of symptoms—high fever, full-body rash, swollen lymph nodes, and Mitisera that coated his throat—tormented his little body. The diagnosis: atypical Kawasaki Disease

...inflammation of the blood vessels that in extreme cases can lead to aneurysms and sudden death. Says Brian: "We didn't know what we were dealing with until we found his coronary artery three times the size it should be."

It took doctors almost two nerve-racking weeks to correctly diagnose Raylee. "You find Raylee as a parent because you're relying on people who are educated about these things," says Brian, 34, of the frustration he and his wife of eight years felt as doctors tested for those eventually ruled out, strep throat, hand, foot and mouth disease, and an allergic reaction to antibiotics. Although Raylee was traumatized

by the needles and tests, he remained in good spirits, which comforted his parents. "He got a sponge bath, and he goes, "This is life!" He was amazing," says Leighanne, 30. But "I knew there was something really wrong." So she spent hours online researching her son's symptoms and even suggested to doctors that it might be K11 (John Travolta's son Jett, who died at 11 following a seizure, had the disease as a child.)

But that too was initially ruled out because Raylee's case wasn't typical. "Everybody doesn't come in with textbook symptoms," explains family friend and pediatrician Greg Cabrera, one of eight doctors who worked on the case. "Raylee didn't fit all the criteria. It was very, very difficult." The Littrells were also worried about what Raylee called "heart stiches," occasional electrical feelings in his chest. (Brian could relate: He was born with a heart murmur and underwent open heart surgery at 23, he later founded the charity Healthy Heart Club for Kids.) They trusted that doctors at Children's

**WHAT IS KAWASAKI DISEASE?**

The condition, named for the doctor who first described it in 1967, causes inflammation of blood vessels, including the coronary arteries. It has no known cause and is diagnosed in about 4,000 Americans a year (usually boys ages 2 to 5 and children of Asian descent). Symptoms include fever over 102° for more than five days, rash, red eyes and mouth, and swollen lymph nodes.

Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite hospital perform an echocardiogram—an ultrasound of Raylee's heart—which solved the mystery and may ultimately have saved his life. "Without the echo they were going home that day," says Cabrera. "It stopped everybody in their tracks." (In a follow-up visit, the Littrells say Raylee's cardiologist told them the chest sensation Raylee still feels are unrelated to K11.)

Immediately Raylee began the standard treatment of a 12-hour course of IVIG, a medication designed to reduce arterial inflammation. He was sent home less than two days later with orders to rest and take aspirin to prevent clotting, and just a week later, tests showed his coronary artery had already started to thicken. Seven weeks later it was even smaller. "Raylee's cardiologist thinks he's going to make a full recovery and be able to do whatever he wants," says Cabrera. Three days that means school (he's taught at home), karate (he's now an orange belt) and entertaining guests with his impersonation of TV mega-minister Joel Osteen. Aside from living normally, "Raylee is pretty much back to normal," says his dad. Meanwhile the Littrells hope other parents can learn from their experience. "Please give up," Brian says. "Doctors are not always right, but they are there to help. Be an advocate for your child." ■

**66 We think, "What if we didn't catch this and it got worse?"** —LEIGHANNE

"I don't know how we would have been any worse. But we do," says Leighanne. "If every day is a gift."

Photo by: MIMI LINDNER

PHOTO: APRIL 6, 2009

PHOTO: APRIL 6, 2009

## Backstreet Boys' Brian Littrell Opens Up About Son's Kawasaki Disease



Being a parent is sometimes a very scary thing, and it's no different for Backstreet Boys star Brian Littrell and his wife, Leighanne. Their 6-year-old son Baylee has given them quite a few scares.

More photos and details after the jump.

[Read More...](#)



Posted Apr 02 2009, 12:36 PM by Karl Erikson with | with 2 comment(s)

Filed under: celebrity parents, celebrity dads, celebrity fathers, Backstreet boys, pop music, brian littrell, Karl Erikson, kawasaki disease, Leighanne Littrell, medical scares for parents

2. Another example is a recent art series I produced of images shot backstage at the fashion shows in Paris. This series was released on New York Magazine's website, [nymag.com](http://nymag.com) and again quickly spread to hundreds of blogs that have advertising and are operating as for-profit websites. This immediately removed any possibility I had of licensing use of these images to other websites, especially international publications which used to be a substantial source of revenue for me. Most of these sites did provide credit to me as the artist which is helpful but nonetheless, they are using my images without my permission as content for their sites. This leaves our only option to try and turn these unauthorized usages into "positive press" for my brand. While press is great, it doesn't pay the bills or keep the lights on in my studio. For that, **I need my images to be protected and I need the ability to make substantial monetary claims against unauthorized usage.**

A simple search on Google for "Leibowitz Backstage" shows just how far the images spread: <http://images.google.com/images?hl=en&source=hp&q=leibowitz%20backstage&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&tab=wi>

Google leibowitz backstage Search [Advanced Search](#)  
 SafeSearch: [Off](#) ▼

Web Images [Show options...](#) Results 1 - 20 of about 57,500 for leibowitz backstage (0.14 sec)

Mark Leibowitz's  
500 x 451 - 105k - jpg  
blog.talsimpson.com

Mark Leibowitz's  
500 x 385 - 98k - jpg  
blog.talsimpson.com

Leibowitz Backstage  
600 x 445 - 164k - png  
fthy.org

Victoria from the  
625 x 480 - 99k - jpg  
blog.leluxe.com  
[Find similar images](#)

Mark Leibowitz -  
400 x 361 - 28k - jpg  
travelinghost.blogspot.com

Mark Leibowitz -  
359 x 400 - 30k - jpg  
travelinghost.blogspot.com

Pre-show from the  
623 x 480 - 98k - jpg  
blog.leluxe.com  
[Find similar images](#)

Gorgeous Lights  
400 x 308 - 33k - jpg  
fashionpuls.blogspot.com

just published  
314 x 320 - 38k - jpg  
hauteheaded.blogspot.com

Photos by Mark  
934 x 718 - 344k - jpg  
pdrphotooftheday.com

Leibowitz has  
640 x 428 - 75k - jpg  
sluxe.com

Mark Leibowitz  
793 x 716 - 253k - jpg  
teamgenius.blogspot.com

Backstage at John  
640 x 640 - 165k - jpg  
sluxe.com

GALLANT STRIDES: Galliano  
320 x 289 - 24k - jpg  
hauteheaded.blogspot.com

Leibowitz went  
580 x 431 - 79k - jpg  
tastewholebeau.com  
[Find similar images](#)

GALLANT STRIDES: Galliano  
320 x 320 - 41k - jpg  
hauteheaded.blogspot.com

Pume from the  
471 x 480 - 94k - jpg  
blog.leluxe.com  
[Find similar images](#)

Mark Leibowitz  
237 x 182 - 17k - jpg  
coolechicstylefashion...

featuring the  
500 x 450 - 35k  
moodboard.typepad.com  
[Find similar images](#)

Leibowitz went  
190 x 190 - 20k - jpg  
nymag.com

Is there a way to stop this from happening? I'm not sure, but again, it illustrates **the importance of strengthening copyright protections for visual artists and maintaining or even increasing penalties for unauthorized use.** It's a dangerous line we are walking and the boundaries must be clearly defined so that artists and content producers are capable of artistic integrity and financial survival. **The unauthorized copying, sale, and distribution of my intellectual property directly impacts my ability to control the use of my own creativity, not to mention my ability to receive income that I have earned from my labor. This is true for all artists and therefore impacts U.S. employment and the economy, and our nation's ability to compete globally.**

Imagine the example where photographers can't license their images because they are immediately stolen upon publication. **The day rates paid by clients are not sufficient to keep a photographer in business. We must have substantial protection of our images because the ability to re-sell our images is a necessity to stay in business. These protections must be updated to protect against theft and unauthorized usage in the digital age.** This includes protections against blogs and even search engines like Google. Without these protections visual artists will go out of business and media without photos is not a pretty picture.

BACKSTREET BOY BRIAN LITRELL

# Fighting for Our Son

With doctors initially unable to diagnose their 6-year-old's Kawasaki Disease, the singer and his wife became their child's greatest advocates

BY MARISA LAUDADIO

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LEIBOWITZ



Photograph by MARK LEIBOWITZ

It was a happy 21st birthday for Bryan Littrell. His first tooth wiggled free in late February after a fried-chicken dinner at the Johnny's Home Cooking restaurant near his home in Atlanta. "The tooth fairy came!" Bryan says proudly. "It brought me a dollar."

At age 6, Bryan has had to endure much scarier milestones. Doctors misdiagnosed the son of Backstreet Boy Brian Littrell and his wife, Leighanne, an accessories designer, who hospitalized after a series of symptoms—high fever, full-body rash, swollen lymph nodes, and diarrhea that coated his throat—hurtled his little body. The diagnosis: atypical Kawasaki Disease

fever rash, an inflammation of the blood vessels that in extreme cases can lead to aneurysms and sudden death. Says Bryan: "We didn't know what we were dealing with until we found his coronary artery three times the size it should be."

It took doctors almost two nerve-racking weeks to correctly diagnose Bryan. "You feel helpless as a parent because you're relying on people who are educated about these things," says Brian, 34, of the frustration he and his wife of eight years felt as doctors tested for, then eventually ruled out, strep throat, hand, foot and mouth disease, and an allergic reaction to antibiotics. Although Bryan was transfused

PEOPLE April 6, 2007 31



**“We think, ‘What if we didn’t catch this and it got worse?’” —LEIGHANNE**

By the needles and tests, he remained in good spirits, which comforted his parents. "He got a sponge bath, and he goes, 'This is the life!' He was amazing," says Leighanne, 33. But "I knew there was something really wrong." So she spent hours online researching her son's symptoms and even suggested to doctors that it might be KJ. (John Travolta's son Jett, who died at 36 following a seizure, had the disease as a child.) But that too was initially ruled out because Bryan's case wasn't typical. "Everybody doesn't come in with textbook symptoms," explains family friend and pediatrician Greg Cabrera, one of eight doctors who worked on the case. "Bryan didn't fit all the criteria. It was very, very difficult." The Littrells were also worried about what Bryan called "heart attacks," occasional electrical feelings in his chest. Brian could relate: He was born with a heart murmur and underwent open-heart surgery at 23, he later founded the charity Healthy Heart Club for Kids. They insisted that doctors at Children's

32 April 6, 2007 PEOPLE

## WHAT IS KAWASAKI DISEASE?

The condition, named for the doctor who first described it in 1967, causes inflammation of blood vessels, including the coronary arteries. It has no known cause and is diagnosed in about 4,000 Americans a year (usually boys ages 2 to 5 and children of Asian descent). Symptoms include fever over 102° for more than five days, rash, red eyes and mouth, and swollen lymph nodes.

Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite hospital perform an echocardiogram—an ultrasound of Bryan's heart—which solved the mystery and may ultimately have saved his life. "Without the echo they were going home that day," says Cabrera. "It stopped everything in their tracks." On a follow-up visit, the Littrells say Bryan's cardiologist told them the chest sensations Bryan still feels are unrelated to KJ.

Immediately Bryan began the standard treatment of a 12-hour course of IVIG, a medication designed to reduce arterial inflammation. He was sent home less than two days later with orders to rest and take aspirin to prevent clotting, and just a week later, tests showed his coronary artery had already started to shrink. Seven weeks later it was even smaller. "Bryan's cardiologist thinks he's going to make a full recovery and be able to do whatever he wants," says Cabrera. Those days that meant school (he's taught at home), karate (he's now an orange belt) and entertaining guests with his impersonation of TV mega-minister Joel Osteen, Aside from living more easily, "Bryan is pretty much back to normal," says his dad. Meanwhile the Littrells hope other parents can learn from their experience. "Never give up," Brian says. "Doctors are not always right, but they are there to help. Be an advocate for your child." ■

Sincerely,  
  
Mark Leibowitz  
Photographer  
Los Angeles, CA