

COPYRIGHT

A Short and Sweet Guide

Definition

- **Copyright** is a form of legal protection for creators - It will protect anything and everything from a recording, painting, drawing, and visual art. If one of these items is copyrighted then another person may not use this piece of media without the consent of the author.

What's Protected?

- Musical Works, Sound Recordings, Choreographic Works, Motion Picture and other Audiovisual works (and many more!)

"Copyright protects the **expression of ideas**, not the ideas themselves. You cannot prevent someone else from writing a country song based on the brilliant idea of drinking beers in the bed of a truck by the lake." - Jeremy Brook

What's NOT Protected?

- Ideas, Concepts, Methods of Operation (not an exhaustive list)

Copyright Differences

In music, there are two different forms of copyright **composition** and **sound recording**. The difference is the songwriter/songwriters publisher (could be one in the same) have one of the copyrights and the recording artist and their label own the second copyright. When it comes to royalty splits, this is decided between the people writing the song vs. recording the song. Sometimes, it is one in the same and the royalty will all go to the same people.

Copyright Symbol

©	Copyright Alt Code	℗	Sound Recording Copyright
©	Copyright Unicode	©	Copyright Symbol
©	Copyright Html	©	Circled Small c letter Copyright
℗	Sound Recording Copyright		

Requirements for Protection

- Copyright arises **automatically** upon the creation of a work that meets the following requirements:
 - **Originality** - Works must be independently created with at least a *shred* of creativity. The following are **NOT** protected:
 - Single words/short phrases
 - Titles
 - Slogans
 - **Fixation** - 17 U.S.C. § 102(a) of the Copyright Act protects works that are “fixed in a tangible medium of expression.” Tangible media of expression include (but are not limited to):
 - Pen and paper
 - Electronic media (CDs, the “cloud,” etc.)
 - Video and audio tape

How To Get A Copyright

All you have to do to own a Copyright of a work of yours is to publish it. That’s it. You now own the copyright. However! This is **NOT THE SAME AS REGISTERING** a copyright. If you register your copyright, it will make it easier to prove in a legal situation that you are the intellectual properties rightful owner.

You can register your copyright online here - <https://www.copyright.gov/registration/>

Exclusive Rights of Copyright Owners

- Copyright protection prevents unauthorized actors from doing the following to your work:
 - Reproduction (making copies)
 - Creating derivative works (adaptation)
 - Distribution
 - Publicly performance and/or display

BIB

<https://www.copyright.gov/title17/title17.pdf>

<https://www.legalzoom.com/articles/understanding-the-copyright-registration-process>

<https://www.upcounsel.com/copyright>

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/17/504>

[https://www.alt-codes.net/copyright alt_code.php](https://www.alt-codes.net/copyright_alt_code.php)