



# In answer to your query

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CONTRIBUTION TO COLLECTIVE WORK

FL-104

If you have written an article, column, or short story that has been published in a magazine, newspaper, or other periodical, you may make a separate registration for your work. This kind of work is called a “contribution to a collective work.”

Under the present copyright statute, the copyright in a separate contribution to a published collective work such as a periodical is distinct from the copyright in the collective work as a whole. In the absence of an express transfer from the author of the individual article, the copyright owner in the collective work is presumed to have acquired only the privilege of using the contribution in the collective work and in subsequent revisions and later editions of the collective work.

As is the case with all published works, a contribution, such as a pictorial or graphic work, to a collective work may appear with its own notice of copyright. However, the law does provide that a single notice covering the collective work as a whole can defeat a defense of “innocent infringement.”

When submitting your work for registration, choose the registration form most appropriate to your contribution. If you anticipate publication of a series of contributions during a 12-month period, you may be interested in special provisions that provide for registration of a group of contributions to a periodical. (See the enclosed adjunct application Form GR/CP and note applicable instructions.)

To apply for registration, send the following material *in the same envelope or package* to the Library of Congress, Copyright Office, 101 Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20559-6000:

- 1 A correctly completed application form;
- 2 A \$30\* nonrefundable filing fee for each application; and
- 3 A nonreturnable deposit of the work to be registered.

The deposit will be either one complete copy of the best edition of the entire collective work, the complete section containing the contribution if published in a newspaper, the entire page containing the contribution, the contribution cut from the paper in which it appeared, or a photocopy of the contribution itself as it was published in the collective work.

Sincerely yours,

Register of Copyrights

\* Copyright Office fees are subject to change. For current fees, please check the Copyright Office website at [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov), write the Copyright Office, or call (202) 707-3000.

## How Long Does Copyright Registration Take?

A copyright registration is effective on the date the Copyright Office receives all required elements in acceptable form, regardless of the length of time it takes to process the application and mail the certificate of registration. The length of time required to process an application varies, depending on the amount of material received.

You will receive no acknowledgement that your application for copyright registration has been received (the Office receives more than 500,000 applications annually), but you may expect:

- A letter, telephone, or email call from a Copyright Office staff member if further information is needed; *and*

- A certificate of registration to indicate the work has been registered, or if the application cannot be accepted, a letter explaining why it has been rejected.

You might not receive either of these until approximately 4–5 months after submission.

If you want to know when the Copyright Office received your material, send it via registered or certified mail and request a return receipt.

For further information, write:

*Library of Congress  
Copyright Office  
Information Section, LM-401  
101 Independence Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000*

## Application Forms

If you need additional application forms for copyright registration, call (202) 707-9100 at any time. Leave your request as a recorded message on the Copyright Office Forms and Publications Hotline. Please specify the kind and number of forms you need. If you have general information questions and wish to talk to an information specialist, call (202) 707-3000, TTY (202) 707-6737.

You may also photocopy blank application forms; *however*, photocopied forms submitted to the Copyright Office must be clear, legible, on a good grade of 8½-inch by 11-inch white paper suitable for automatic feeding through a scanner/photocopier. The forms should be printed, preferably in black ink, head-to-head so that when you turn the sheet over, the top of page 2 is directly behind the top of page 1. **Forms not meeting these requirements will be returned.**

All Copyright Office application forms are available from the Copyright Office Website at [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov). They may be downloaded and printed for use in registering or renewing a claim to copyright.

You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer to view and print the forms. The free Adobe Acrobat Reader may be downloaded from Adobe Systems Incorporated through links from the same Internet site at which the forms are available.

Print application forms head-to-head (top of page 2 is directly behind the top of page 1) on a single piece of good quality, 8½-inch by 11-inch white paper. To achieve the best quality copies, use a laser printer.

Copyright Office circulars, forms, and other information are also available from the Copyright Office website.

Copyright Office circulars and announcements are available via fax. Call (202) 707-2600 from any touchtone telephone. Key in your fax number at the prompt and the document number of the item(s) you want to receive by fax. The item(s) will be transmitted to your fax machine. If you do not know the document number of the item(s) you want, request that a menu be faxed to you. You may order up to three items at a time. Note that copyright application forms are *not* available by fax.