



In answer to your query

COPYRIGHT REGISTRATION OF VISUAL ARTS

FL-115

The visual arts category consists of pictorial, graphic, or sculptural works, including 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional works of fine, graphic, and applied art, photographs, prints and art reproductions, maps, globes, charts, technical drawings, diagrams, architectural works and models.

Copyright protects an author's specific expression in literary, artistic, or musical form. Copyright protection does not extend to any idea, system, method, device, name, or title.

To register a work of the visual arts, send the following three elements **in the same envelope or package** to the Library of Congress, Copyright Office, 101 Independence Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20559-6000:

- 1 A completed application Form VA.
- 2 A nonrefundable filing fee of \$30*.
- 3 A nonreturnable deposit of the material to be registered. The deposit requirements will vary depending on the nature of the work and whether the work has been published prior to registration.

If the visual art is *published*, the proper deposit is, generally, two complete copies. Identifying material may be deposited in some cases. If the visual art is *unpublished*, generally one complete copy is required. This copy must represent the entire copyrightable content of the work for which registration is sought.

Identifying material deposited to represent the visual art shall usually consist of photographs, photostats, slides, drawings, or other 2-dimensional representations of the work. The identifying material shall include as many pieces as necessary to show the entire copyrightable content of the work, including any copyright notice on the work. All pieces of identifying material other than transparencies must be no less than 3 × 3 inches in size, and not more than 9 × 12 inches, but preferably 8 × 10 inches. At least one piece of identifying material must, on its front, back, or mount, indicate the title of the work and an exact measurement of one or more dimensions of the work. (See Circular 40A, *Deposit Requirements for Registration of Claims to Copyright in Visual Arts Material*, and Circular 40, *Copyright Registration for Works of the Visual Arts*.)

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, 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 acknowledgment 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. 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.