

Copyright Registration

Step-by-step guide for writers & filmmakers

Whether you're a filmmaker protecting your screenplay, a songwriter finalizing lyrics, or a creator preparing to pitch your next project — registering your work with the U.S. Copyright Office is the most powerful way to secure your legal ownership. This guide walks you through the process step by step, with insider notes, screenshots, and professional tips — so you can protect your creative work for life, without needing a lawyer.

Why Registration Matters

In Hollywood and beyond, your ideas are your currency. The moment you finish a script, song, or creative work, it becomes an intellectual asset — one worth legally protecting.

The U.S. Copyright Office doesn't just timestamp your work; it establishes your legal ownership under federal law. That means if someone ever copies or exploits your material without permission, you have the right to enforce it in court and recover damages. Unlike WGA registration, which serves as proof of authorship, copyright registration makes your ownership official. It's the gold standard — recognized globally, transferable in contracts, and valid for your lifetime plus 70 years.

For most creators, it's not just a legal formality — it's the smartest business move you can make before sharing your work with producers, investors, or collaborators.

Pro Tip:

WGA registration = proof of authorship.

U.S. Copyright registration = proof of ownership.

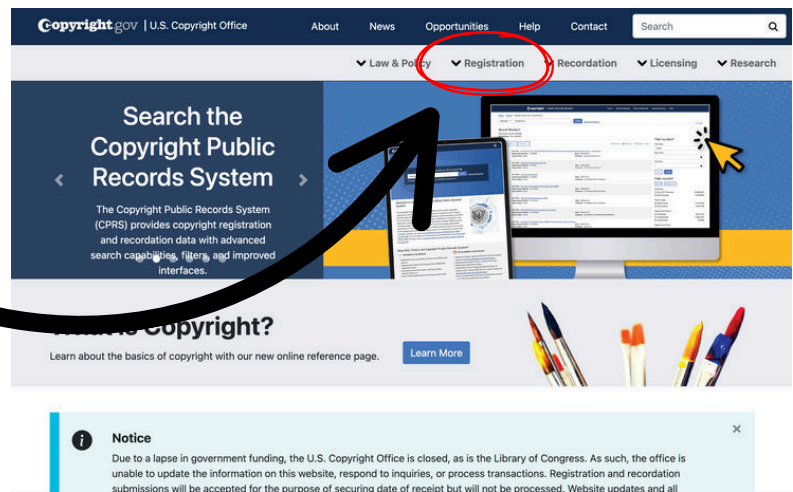
Serious creators do both.

How to Register with US Copyright Office

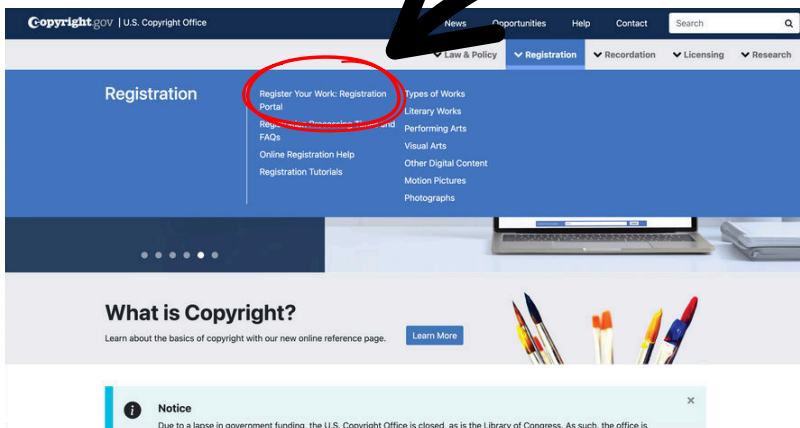
Note: This guide covers the registration of a single work, not a group of works

1. Go to copyright.gov

2. Click “Registration”



3. Select “Register Your Work: Registration Portal”



Now Let's Get Started!



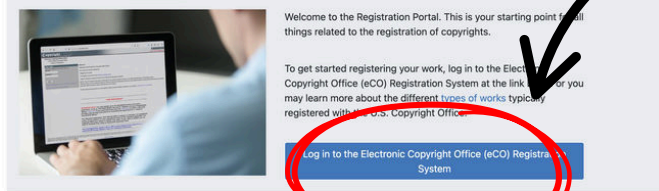
Register Your Work: Registration Portal

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING REGISTERING A GROUP OF UNPUBLISHED WORKS

You may register up to 10 unpublished works on the same application, but **YOU MUST SELECT** the new application for a "Group of Unpublished Works."

View [this image](#) if you need help finding the application for a "Group of Unpublished Works," and [watch this video](#) for step-by-step instructions for completing this application. You can also read [these frequently asked questions](#) about this application.

The "Standard Application" **MAY NOT BE USED** to register a "collection" of unpublished works. If you submit 2 or more works on the "Standard Application" the Copyright Office may register only 1 of your works and remove the remaining works from the claim. To register those works you will need to resubmit them using an appropriate application form.



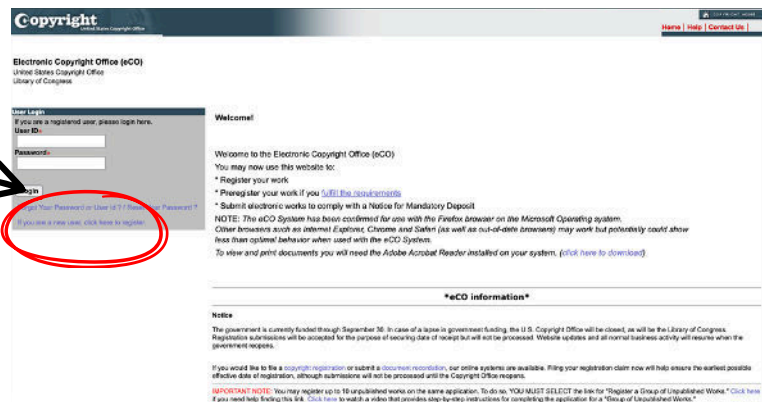
Welcome to the Registration Portal. This is your starting point for all things related to the registration of copyrights.

To get started registering your work, log in to the Electronic Copyright Office (eCO) Registration System at the link below or you may learn more about the different types of works typically registered with the U.S. Copyright Office.

[Log in to the Electronic Copyright Office \(eCO\) Registration System](#)

3. Select "Log in to the Electronic CopyrightOffice (eCO) Registration System"

4. Select "If you are a new user, click here to register."



Copyright
U.S. Copyright Office

Electronic Copyright Office (eCO)
United States Copyright Office
Library of Congress

User Login
If you are a registered user, please login here.
User ID:
Password:

Welcome!

Welcome to the Electronic Copyright Office (eCO).
You may now use this website to:

- Register your work.
- Pre-register your work if you [satisfy the requirements](#).
- Submit electronic works to comply with a Notice for Mandatory Deposit.

NOTE: The eCO System has been configured for use with the Firefox browser on the Microsoft Operating system. Other browsers such as Internet Explorer, Chrome and Safari (as well as out-of-date versions) may work but potentially could show less than optimal behavior when used with the eCO System.

To view and print documents you will need the [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) installed on your system. ([click here to download](#))

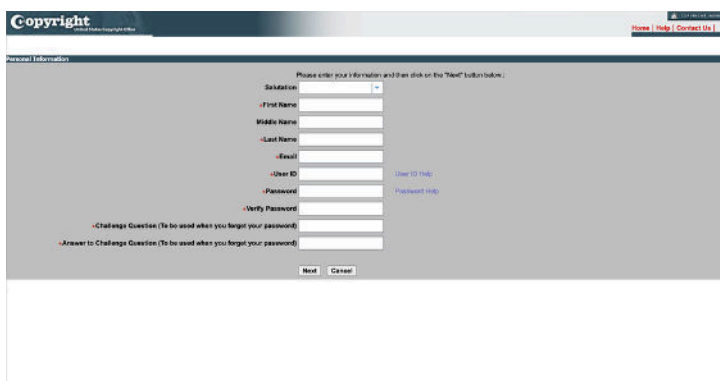
eCO information

Notice

The government is currently funded through September 30. In case of a lapse in government funding, the U.S. Copyright Office will be closed, as will be the Library of Congress. Registration submissions will be accepted for the purpose of securing date of receipt but will not be processed. Website updates and all normal business activity will resume when the government reopens.

If you would like to file a copyright registration or submit a document recordation, our online systems are available. Filing your registration claim now will help ensure the earliest possible effective date of registration, although submissions will not be processed until the Copyright Office reopens.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You may register up to 10 unpublished works on the same application. To do so, **YOU MUST SELECT** the link for "Register a Group of Unpublished Works." [Click here](#) if you need help finding the link. [Click here](#) to read a notice that provides step-by-step instructions for completing the application for a "Group of Unpublished Works."



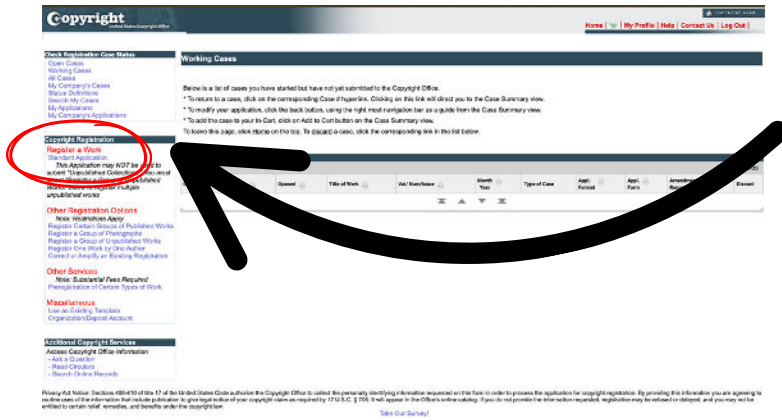
Copyright
U.S. Copyright Office

Personal Information

Please enter your information and then click on the "Next" tab below.

Jurisdiction: [Dropdown]
First Name: [Text]
Middle Name: [Text]
Last Name: [Text]
Email: [Text]
User ID: [Text] [User ID Help](#)
Password: [Text] [Password Help](#)
Verify Password: [Text]
Challenge Question (To be used when you forget your password): [Text]
Answer to Challenge Question (To be used when you forget your password): [Text]

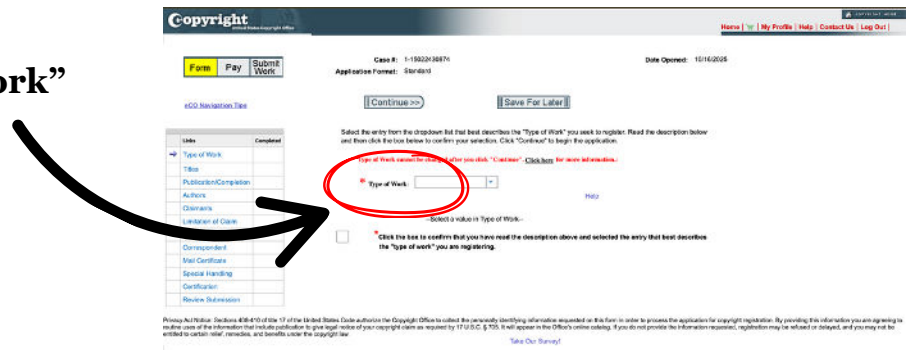
5. Fill out the Registration form and log in.



6. Select “Register a Work”

TYPE OF WORK

7. Select “Type of Work”



IMPORTANT

Once you begin your Copyright application, you’ll be asked to choose a **Type of Work**.

This step matters more than most people realize — because once you make this selection, **you can’t change it without starting a brand-new application.**


Think of this like choosing the category your creative work belongs to. The category you pick determines what fields appear next and what type of material you’re officially protecting.

Here’s how to choose correctly:

For Screenwriters & Filmmakers:

If you're registering a script, screenplay, or teleplay, choose "Work of the Performing Arts."

This category covers dramatic works — anything intended to be performed, like screenplays, plays, musicals, or choreography.


 **Pro Tip:** If your project includes a sound recording (like a podcast episode or original soundtrack), but your main focus is the script itself, stick with "Performing Arts." Only choose "Sound Recording" if the audio itself is the creative work being registered.

For Authors & Writers:

If you're registering a novel, nonfiction manuscript, treatment, or book, select "Literary Work."


This is also the correct option for treatments, outlines, and show bibles that aren't yet in screenplay form.

"Literary Work" includes all nondramatic written material — fiction, essays, poems, advertising copy, even databases.

 **Example:** If you've written a book that's mostly text but includes a few photos or illustrations, still choose "Literary Work." The writing is the predominant authorship.

For Visual Artists & Designers:


If your work is primarily art, photos, or visual design, select "Work of the Visual Arts." That includes illustrations, concept art, photography, maps, paintings, or technical drawings.

 **For filmmakers:** Only use this if you're registering something like a film poster, storyboard art, or concept sketches — not the screenplay or final film.

For Musicians & Producers:

If you're registering a sound recording — such as a finished song, podcast, or performance track — choose “Sound Recording.”


This category protects the recorded performance itself, not the written lyrics or sheet music. If you want to protect both the recording and the underlying composition, you can do that on one form only if you own both rights.

 **Important:** If the sounds are part of a film, video, or other audiovisual work, they are not considered a “Sound Recording.” Choose “Motion Picture/Audiovisual Work” instead.

For Filmmakers Registering the Actual Film:

If you're registering a completed movie, short film, documentary, or video, choose “Motion Picture/Audiovisual Work.”

This protects the finished product — the combination of moving images and sound. You can still separately register the screenplay (as a Performing Arts work) if you want both the script and final cut protected.

 **Example:** “Rising Shadows — Feature Film” (Motion Picture) and “Rising Shadows — Screenplay” (Performing Arts) can be two separate registrations under the same project.

If Your Work Includes More Than One Type of Authorship

If your project mixes mediums (like a book that includes photos, or a documentary with original songs), choose the category that best represents the main creative element.

For instance:


- A mostly-text book with some images → “Literary Work”
- A photo-driven coffee table book → “Visual Arts”
- A film that features your own music → “Motion Picture/Audiovisual”

If you're only protecting one part of a larger work, select the category for the part you want covered.

Special Case: Single Serial Issue

Serials include magazines, newsletters, or journals — anything published in ongoing issues.

If you're registering a single published issue (like Indie Film Journal, Vol. 1, No. 1), select "Single Serial Issue."

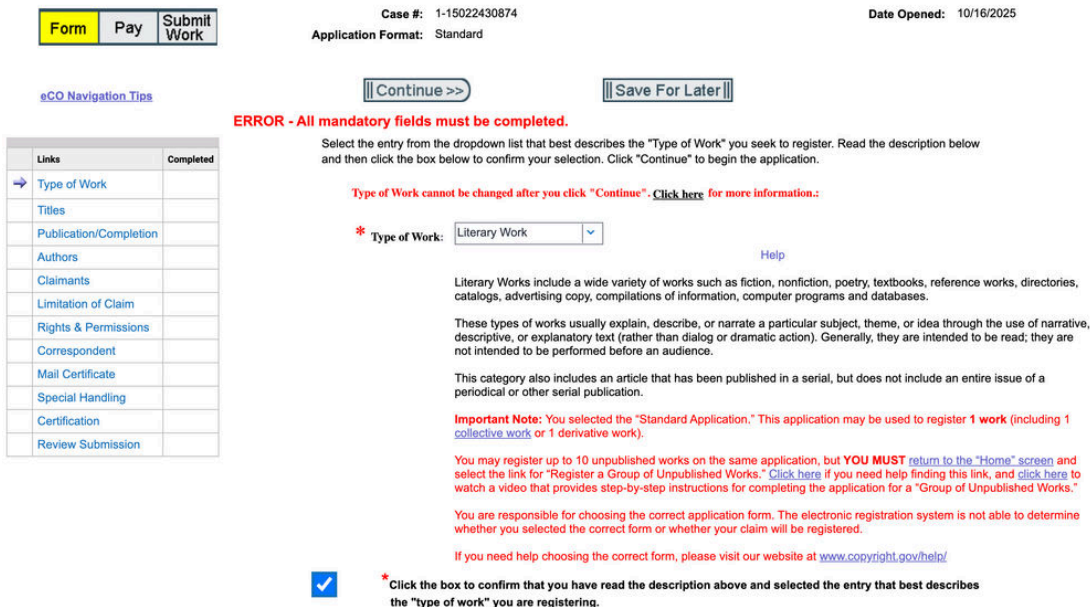
 Note: You'll need to use the Standard Application — not the "Single Work by One Author" option. Each issue is considered its own work for copyright purposes.

If You Choose Incorrectly

You **cannot change** your Type of Work after you start.

If you realize you picked the wrong one — for example, "Literary Work" instead of "Performing Arts" — you'll need to begin a new application from scratch.

To avoid headaches, double-check this choice before moving forward. It determines every step that follows — and ultimately, what your copyright protects.



The screenshot shows the Copyright.gov registration application form. At the top, there are buttons for "Form", "Pay", and "Submit Work". The case number is 1-15022430874 and the date opened is 10/16/2025. The application format is Standard. There are "Continue >>" and "Save For Later" buttons. A red error message states: "ERROR - All mandatory fields must be completed." Below this, a dropdown menu for "Type of Work" is set to "Literary Work". A "Help" link is provided. The "Help" text explains that Literary Works include a wide variety of works such as fiction, nonfiction, poetry, textbooks, reference works, directories, catalogs, advertising copy, compilations of information, computer programs and databases. It also notes that these types of works usually explain, describe, or narrate a particular subject, theme, or idea through the use of narrative, descriptive, or explanatory text (rather than dialog or dramatic action). Generally, they are intended to be read; they are not intended to be performed before an audience. This category also includes an article that has been published in a serial, but does not include an entire issue of a periodical or other serial publication. An important note states: "Important Note: You selected the 'Standard Application.' This application may be used to register 1 work (including 1 collective work or 1 derivative work)." Another note says: "You may register up to 10 unpublished works on the same application, but YOU MUST return to the 'Home' screen and select the link for 'Register a Group of Unpublished Works.' Click here if you need help finding this link, and click here to watch a video that provides step-by-step instructions for completing the application for a 'Group of Unpublished Works.'" A final note states: "You are responsible for choosing the correct application form. The electronic registration system is not able to determine whether you selected the correct form or whether your claim will be registered." At the bottom, there is a checkbox that is checked, with a red asterisk and the text: "Click the box to confirm that you have read the description above and selected the entry that best describes the 'type of work' you are registering."

Links	Completed
Type of Work	
Titles	
Publication/Completion	
Authors	
Claimants	
Limitation of Claim	
Rights & Permissions	
Correspondent	
Mail Certificate	
Special Handling	
Certification	
Review Submission	

8. Select Check Box & then Continue

Copyright Office

Case #: 1-1502243874 Date Opened: 10/14/2025

Application Format: Standard

Form Pay Submit Work

Save For Later

Continue >>

Save the entry from the dropdown list that best describes the "Type of Work" you seek to register. Read the description below and then click the box below to confirm your selection. Click "Continue" to begin the application.

Type of Work cannot be changed after you click "Continue". Click here for more information.

Type of Work: [Dropdown]

Select a value in Type of Work.

Click the box to confirm that you have read the description above and selected the entry that best describes the type of work you are registering.

Privacy Act Notice: Sections 408-410 of title 17 of the United States Code authorize the Copyright Office to collect the personally identifying information requested on this form in order to process the application for copyright registration. By providing this information you are agreeing to routine uses of the information that include publication to give legal notice of your copyright claim as required by 17 U.S.C. § 705. It will appear in the Office's online catalog. If you do not provide the information requested, registration may be refused or delayed, and you may not be entitled to certain relief, remedies, and benefits under the copyright law.

Take Our Survey!

TITLE

Copyright Office

Case #: 1-1502243874

Application Format: Standard

Form Pay Submit Work

Navigation: << Back | Continue >>

Give the title(s) exactly as it appears on the work. If there is no title give an identifying phrase or state "untitled". To enter the title(s), click "New". After you enter the title, click "Save". Repeat this process for each additional title.

New *

For each title you enter, click the appropriate link in the list below. When the list is complete and correct, click "Continue" to save the information and proceed to the "Publication/Completion" screen.

Title of Work	Volume	Number	Issue Date	Type	Edn	Details
No Records						

Privacy Act Notice: Sections 408-410 of title 17 of the United States Code authorize the Copyright Office to collect the personally identifying information requested on this form in order to process the application for copyright registration. By providing this information you are agreeing to routine uses of the information that include publication to give legal notice of your copyright claim as required by 17 U.S.C. § 705. It will appear in the Office's online catalog. If you do not provide the information requested, registration may be refused or delayed, and you may not be entitled to certain relief, remedies, and benefits under the copyright law.

Take Our Survey!

9. Click "New" to Add Project Title

10. Select "Title Type"

Copyright Office

Case #: 1-1502243874

Application Format: Standard

Type of Case: Literary Work

Date Opened: 10/16/2025

Form Pay Submit Work

Save Cancel

Give only one Title and Title Type at a time on this screen; then click "Save".

Step 1: Click on "Title Type" to determine the type of title.

Step 2: Select the Title Type. You must select "Title of Work Being Registered" at least once.

Step 3: Enter the title from the work that corresponds to the Title Type you selected.

Save: When you have finished adding all titles, Click "Save" to save the title.

Title Type: [Dropdown]

Title of this work: [Text Box]

Privacy Act Notice: Sections 408-410 of title 17 of the United States Code authorize the Copyright Office to collect the personally identifying information requested on this form in order to process the application for copyright registration. By providing this information you are agreeing to routine uses of the information that include publication to give legal notice of your copyright claim as required by 17 U.S.C. § 705. It will appear in the Office's online catalog. If you do not provide the information requested, registration may be refused or delayed, and you may not be entitled to certain relief, remedies, and benefits under the copyright law.

Take Our Survey!

Picking the Right "Title Type"



This screen trips people up because the Copyright Office asks you to label how your title relates to any bigger container (album, series, magazine) or any alternate name it's had. Pick carefully — it controls how your registration reads.

Start here: What exactly are you registering today?

If you're registering a single work (one screenplay, one song, one short story, one podcast episode), the title you type for that specific piece is almost always Title of Work Being Registered. From there, you may add other related titles (like the album, series, or previous name) using the other "Title Type" options below.

Title of Work Being Registered

Use this for the thing itself you're registering.

- A screenplay titled *Rising Shadows* → Title of Work Being Registered: "Rising Shadows"
- A podcast episode "Interview with Sasquatch" → Title of Work Being Registered: "Interview with Sasquatch"
- An album you're registering in full (all tracks) → Title of Work Being Registered: "Britney Shields Debut Album"

If you're registering one contribution from a larger whole (one story from an anthology, one song from an album), the contribution's title goes here. You'll add the book/album title under Title of Larger Work.

Previous or Alternative Title

Has this work had another name before, or a title in another language? Add that here.

- Your script *My Old Ohio Home* used to be *Take Me Back to Cincinnati*
 - Title of Work Being Registered: "My Old Ohio Home"
 - Previous or Alternative Title: "Take Me Back to Cincinnati"
- Translated book *The Black and the Red* from *Le Noir et le Rouge*
 - Title of Work Being Registered: "The Black and the Red"
 - Previous or Alternative Title: "Le Noir et le Rouge"

This keeps your paper trail clean when a project changes names during development or marketing.

Title of Larger Work

Use when your work appears inside a bigger container (album, magazine, anthology, etc.).

- Song “Melody in G” on album All of My Songs
 - Title of Work Being Registered: “Melody in G”
 - Title of Larger Work: “All of My Songs”
- Article “Running a Marathon” in Field & Track (include volume/issue/date if you have it)
 - Title of Work Being Registered: “Running a Marathon”
 - Title of Larger Work: “Field & Track (Vol. 12, No. 3, May 2025)”
- Short story “Why I Live at the A&P” in Stories by American Women
 - Title of Work Being Registered: “Why I Live at the A&P”
 - Title of Larger Work: “Stories by American Women”

Registering the entire container instead (e.g., the whole album or the entire anthology)? Then the container’s name goes under Title of Work Being Registered, and the individual pieces become Contents Titles (next section).

Series Title

Use when your work is one installment in a continuing series (TV series, podcast, book series).

- TV episode “Tina Goes Home” from All My Grandchildren
 - Title of Work Being Registered: “Tina Goes Home (Ep. 104)”
 - Series Title: “All My Grandchildren”
- Podcast episode “Interview with Sasquatch” from Cryptids, Tigers, and Bears, Oh My!
 - Title of Work Being Registered: “Interview with Sasquatch (Ep. 113)”
 - Series Title: “Cryptids, Tigers, and Bears, Oh My!”
- Book Life of Mozart in the series Lives of Great Composers
 - Title of Work Being Registered: “Life of Mozart”
 - Series Title: “Lives of Great Composers”

This tells the Office the piece belongs to an ongoing property, without claiming the whole series at once.

Contents Titles

Use when you're registering a collection and you want to list each item inside it (all songs on an album, all stories in an anthology).

- Anthology Jane Smith's Short Stories (registering the entire book)
 - Title of Work Being Registered: "Jane Smith's Short Stories"
 - Contents Titles: "Beautiful Day"; "Long Road to Nowhere"; "..."
- Album Britney Shields Debut Album (registering the entire album)
 - Title of Work Being Registered: "Britney Shields Debut Album"
 - Contents Titles: "Young At Last"; "Serenade"; "Dance All Night"; "..."

If you're only registering one song or one story, don't use Contents Titles. Put the piece as Title of Work Being Registered and the album/anthology under Title of Larger Work.

Quick Reality Checks (to avoid the most common mistakes)

One track from an album?

- Track name = Title of Work Being Registered.
- Album name = Title of Larger Work.
- (Do not list the other tracks as Contents Titles unless you're registering the entire album.)

One episode of a TV show or podcast?

- Episode name = Title of Work Being Registered.
- Show/podcast name = Series Title.
- (Include episode number if you have it.)

Whole album / whole anthology?

- Collection name = Title of Work Being Registered.
- Each track/story = Contents Titles.

Script that changed names mid-development?

- Current name = Title of Work Being Registered.
- Old name(s) = Previous or Alternative Title.

If you picked the wrong Title Type

You can add or correct additional related titles (Series, Larger Work, Previous/Alternative), but if you realize the main selection (what you put under Title of Work Being Registered) is wrong for the work you're registering, fix it now before you continue. Past this screen, changing fundamental choices often means starting over.

11. Enter “Title of the work”

PUBLICATION/COMPLETION

12. Has this work been published? Choose “Yes” or “No”

If Yes

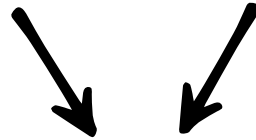


If No



13. Enter Publication Information

13. Enter Completion Date



Pre-Registration Number

When you start the application, you might see an option for Pre-Registration. Most creators don't need it — but here's when it matters.

Pre-registration is designed for projects that are likely to be released or shared publicly before they're finished — like a major studio film in post-production, an album scheduled for release, or a commercial video game still in development. It lets you record the work in progress to claim early protection against infringement before final completion.

Once your project is complete, you must still file a full registration to make that protection enforceable. For indie filmmakers, writers, and musicians, pre-registration usually isn't necessary. It's better to wait until the work is finished and file a standard registration, which lasts for your lifetime plus 70 years and provides full legal coverage.

💡 Think of pre-registration as a “hold my spot” placeholder — useful for big-budget releases, but unnecessary for most creators.

Click Continue...

AUTHORS & CLAIMANTS

14. Click “New” or “Add Me” (if you are applying for yourself)

Case #: 1-15022430874 Type of Case: Literary Work Date Opened: 10/16/2025

Application Format: Standard

Authors [Save] [Cancel]

Author's Name Give either an individual name OR an organization name, but not both.
 An author is the person who actually created the contribution, unless the contribution was Made for hire in which case Either citizenship/domicile of the author is also required.

Individual Author: OR Organization:

First Name: Organization Name:

Middle Name: Help

Last Name:

Is this author's contribution a **work made for hire**?:

* Citizenship: Help Anonymous: Help

OR Pseudonymous: Help

* Domicile: Help Pseudonym:

Year of Birth: YYYY

Year of Death: YYYY

Privacy Act Notice: Sections 408-410 of title 17 of the United States Code authorize the Copyright Office to collect the personally identifying information requested on this form in order to process the application for copyright registration. By providing this information you are agreeing to routine uses of the information that include publication to give legal notice of your copyright claim as required by 17 U.S.C. § 705. It will appear in the Office's online catalog. If you do not provide the information requested, registration may be refused or delayed, and you may not be entitled to certain remedies, and benefits under the copyright law.

[Take Our Survey!](#)

Authors vs. Claimants: Key Things to Know

Who goes where (and what to do with co-writers, pen names, and company ownership)

This section decides who is officially recognized as the creator and legal owner of the work.

It's one of the most important parts of your application — and one of the easiest to get wrong.

Let's break it down.


Author = The Creator

The author is the person (or people) who actually created the work — wrote the script, composed the song, painted the image, or filmed the footage.

If you wrote the screenplay, you're the author.

If two people co-wrote the lyrics and melody of a song, both are authors.

If you directed a film, but didn't write the script, you may not be considered an author of the screenplay — though you might be for the audiovisual version later.


 In copyright law, "author" doesn't always mean "writer." It means the person who made the creative contribution being registered.

Claimant = The Owner

The claimant is the person or entity that owns the rights.

In many cases, the author and claimant are the same. But not always.


If you've transferred your rights to a company (for example, your production company or an investor), that company becomes the claimant.

 Think of it this way: “Author” = who created it. “Claimant” = who owns it now.

Co-Writers and Collaborators

If you co-wrote the script or song, list every author involved in creating the work.

- Use each person's full legal name.
- Check “This author created the entire work” only if that person truly did — otherwise specify their contribution (e.g., “text,” “lyrics,” or “music”).
- The same author can appear multiple times on related registrations (e.g., one for the screenplay, another for the finished film).

 If one co-writer registers without including the other, the registration is still valid — but it only covers that person's share.

To avoid headaches later, all co-authors should register together or have a written collaboration agreement on file.

Using a Pen Name or Pseudonym

If you publish or release your work under a stage name, you can still register under your legal name while noting the pseudonym.

For example:

- Legal name: Taylor Johnson
- Pseudonym used: T.J. Rivers

You'll be asked whether to make your legal name public. If you prefer privacy, you can choose to withhold it — though keep in mind, this may affect how others find your record later.

Registering Under a Company or LLC


If your production company or label owns the rights, list the company as the claimant, not the author.

However, you must still include the individual author(s) in the “Author” section.

Example:

- Author: Reena Sehgal
- Claimant: Thoolie Productions, LLC


This tells the Copyright Office that Reena created the work, but Thoolie Productions legally owns it — typically through a written assignment or “work-for-hire” clause.

 If your LLC is a single-member company (owned only by you), you can still list it as the claimant to centralize ownership and simplify future licensing or transfers.

Work for Hire (W4H)

If the work was created as part of employment or under a work-for-hire agreement (for example, you hired a composer for your film score), the employer or commissioning entity is listed as the author and claimant.

In that case, the hired artist is not legally the “author” for copyright purposes — the hiring company is.

 Only use this option if you have a written work-for-hire agreement in place. Without one, the default rule is that the individual creator remains the author.

Pro Tip — Keep Your Chain of Title Clean

As your project evolves — from script to film, from song to album — ownership might shift.

Each transfer (from you to a company, from company to buyer) should be documented in writing.

This paper trail is your chain of title, and it’s what distributors, financiers, and platforms will look for before they release or buy your project.

Copyright

Case #: 1-100240074
Application Form: Standard
Type of Case: Library Work
Date Opened: 10/16/2015

Authors

Author's Name: One will or an individual OR an organization name, but not both.
An author is the person who actually created the work, unless it is an invention
not made for hire in which case either co-inventor or one of the authors is also required.

Individual Author Organization

First Name:
Last Name:
Middle Name:

Organization Name:

Is this author's work for hire?

Copyright Assignment Residual Royalty

Year of Birth:

Year of Death:

Please See Notice Section 404 of title 17 of the United States Code authorize the Copyright Office to collect the personally identifying information requested on this form in order to process the application for copyright registration. By providing the information you are agreeing to provide and if the information that you submit is false or misleading you may be subject to civil penalties under 17 U.S.C. § 505. If you do not provide the information requested, registration may be refused or delayed, and you may not be eligible to obtain other services, and benefits under the copyright law.

Copyright

Case #: 1-100240074
Application Form: Standard
Type of Case: Library Work
Date Opened: 10/16/2015

Authors

Check the appropriate boxes to indicate the author's contribution:

Author created:
 Not Computer Program Photographic Artwork

Other:

Please See Notice Section 404 of title 17 of the United States Code authorize the Copyright Office to collect the personally identifying information requested on this form in order to process the application for copyright registration. By providing the information you are agreeing to provide and if the information that you submit is false or misleading you may be subject to civil penalties under 17 U.S.C. § 505. If you do not provide the information requested, registration may be refused or delayed, and you may not be eligible to obtain other services, and benefits under the copyright law.

15. Add Author Information & Contribution
 Note: Choose Individual Author OR Organization --- Not Both.
 Click "Save" and repeat steps 14 & 15 until all Authors have been added. Then
 Click "Continue"

Copyright

Case #: 1-100240074
Application Form: Standard
Type of Case: Library Work
Date Opened: 10/16/2015

Claimants

Please See Notice Section 404 of title 17 of the United States Code authorize the Copyright Office to collect the personally identifying information requested on this form in order to process the application for copyright registration. By providing the information you are agreeing to provide and if the information that you submit is false or misleading you may be subject to civil penalties under 17 U.S.C. § 505. If you do not provide the information requested, registration may be refused or delayed, and you may not be eligible to obtain other services, and benefits under the copyright law.

Copyright

Case #: 1-100240074
Application Form: Standard
Type of Case: Library Work
Date Opened: 10/16/2015

Claimants

Individual Claimant Organization Name

First Name:
Last Name:
Middle Name:

Organization Name:

Address 1:
Address 2:
City:
State:
Postal Code:
Country:

Copyright Assignment

Please See Notice Section 404 of title 17 of the United States Code authorize the Copyright Office to collect the personally identifying information requested on this form in order to process the application for copyright registration. By providing the information you are agreeing to provide and if the information that you submit is false or misleading you may be subject to civil penalties under 17 U.S.C. § 505. If you do not provide the information requested, registration may be refused or delayed, and you may not be eligible to obtain other services, and benefits under the copyright law.

16. Add Claimant Information
 Note: Similar to Author - Add information, Save, and "Continue"

LIMITATION OF CLAIM

17. Fill out any existing Limitation & “Continue”

Limitation of Claim - What is it?

This section tells the Copyright Office what parts of your work not to protect — usually because they were previously published, registered, or created by someone else.

If you’re registering a brand-new, original work, you can skip this section — just leave it blank.

But if your project includes older or third-party material (like stock footage, licensed music, or a rewritten version of a previously registered script), list those parts under Material Excluded. Then, in New Material Included, describe what you added — for example:

Material Excluded: previously registered version of screenplay
New Material Included: revised dialogue and new ending

💡 Think of it as clarifying your contribution. You’re not taking credit for someone else’s material — you’re staking a claim to what’s new and original in this version.

More Help? Visit >



Rights & Permissions

The screenshot shows the Copyright Office website interface. At the top, there are browser tabs and a navigation bar with the Copyright Office logo and links like 'Home', 'My Profile', 'Help', 'Contact Us', and 'Log Out'. Below the navigation bar, there's a header area with 'Case #', 'Type of Case', and 'Date Opened'. A main navigation bar highlights 'Rights & Permissions Information (Optional)'. To the left is a 'Links' table with a 'Completed' column. The main form area has a 'You may provide contact information...' section with an 'Important!' note. Below this are two columns of input fields: 'Individual' (First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Email, Phone, Alternate Phone) and 'Organization' (Organization Name, Address 1, Address 2, City, State, Postal Code, Country). A 'Privacy Act Notice' is at the bottom of the form area.

Links	Completed
Type of Work	✓
Titles	✓
Publication/Completion	✓
Authors	✓
Claimants	✓
Limitation of Claim	✓
→ Rights & Permissions	
Correspondent	
Mail Certificate	
Special Handling	
Certification	
Review Submission	

Individual:
First Name:
Middle Name:
Last Name:
Email:
Phone:
Alternate Phone:

Organization:
Organization Name:
Address 1:
Address 2:
City:
State:
Postal Code:
Country:

18. Fill out Rights & Permission Information & “Continue”

Who People Should Call About Licensing or Usage

This section is optional – but highly recommended if you ever plan to license, sell, or distribute your work. It tells the Copyright Office (and anyone searching the public record) who to contact for permission to use the material.

If you leave it blank, no one will know how to reach you about licensing opportunities. If you fill it in, you stay in control of how your work is used.

Here’s how to decide who to list:

If you own your rights personally: Enter your own name, business email, or a professional contact form (never your home address).

If your company or rep manages rights: Enter your production company, management firm, or agent’s contact info – whoever handles your contracts.

If you’re a music artist or songwriter: Use your publisher, label, or PRO contact (if applicable) – or set up a business email just for licensing inquiries.

Pro Tip: You can list a generic business email like `rights@yourcompany.com` so licensing requests stay professional and separate from your personal inbox.

This doesn’t transfer ownership or give anyone rights – it just helps people find you through official records if they want to use or clear your work.

Correspondent & Mail Certificate

Case #: 1-15022430874
Application Format: Standard
Type of Case: Literary Work
Date Opened: 10/16/2025

Correspondent

Individual: * First Name: [] Middle Name: [] * Last Name: [] * Email: [] Phone: [] Alternate Phone: [] Fax: []

Organization: Organization Name: [] * Address 1: [] Address 2: [] * City: [] State: [] Postal Code: [] Country: []

Links	Completed
Type of Work	✓
Titles	✓
Publication/Completion	✓
Authors	✓
Claimants	✓
Limitation of Claim	✓
Rights & Permissions	✓
→ Correspondent	✓
Mail Certificate	
Special Handling	
Certification	
Review Submission	

Privacy Act Notice: Sections 408-410 of title 17 of the United States Code authorize the Copyright Office to collect the personally identifying information requested on this form in order to process the application for copyright registration. By providing this information you are agreeing to routine uses of the information that include publication to give legal notice of your copyright claim as required by 17 U.S.C. § 705. It will appear in the Office's online catalog. If you do not provide the information requested, registration may be refused or delayed, and you may not be entitled to certain relief, remedies, and benefits under the copyright law.

[Take Our Survey!](#)

19. Fill out Correspondent Information & “Continue”

Correspondent: This is the person they contact if there's a question about your application.
→ Usually you, your lawyer, or your production company.

Case #: 1-15022430874
Application Format: Standard
Type of Case: Literary Work
Date Opened: 10/16/2025

Mail Certificate

Individual: * First Name: [] Middle Name: [] * Last Name: [] * Address 1: [] Address 2: [] * City: []

Organization: * Organization Name: [] * State: [] * Postal Code: [] Country: []

Links	Completed
Type of Work	✓
Titles	✓
Publication/Completion	✓
Authors	✓
Claimants	✓
Limitation of Claim	✓
Rights & Permissions	✓
Correspondent	✓
→ Mail Certificate	✓
Special Handling	
Certification	
Review Submission	

Privacy Act Notice: Sections 408-410 of title 17 of the United States Code authorize the Copyright Office to collect the personally identifying information requested on this form in order to process the application for copyright registration. By providing this information you are agreeing to routine uses of the information that include publication to give legal notice of your copyright claim as required by 17 U.S.C. § 705. It will appear in the Office's online catalog. If you do not provide the information requested, registration may be refused or delayed, and you may not be entitled to certain relief, remedies, and benefits under the copyright law.

[Take Our Survey!](#)

20. Fill out Mail Certificate Information & “Continue”

Mail Certificate To: This is where the final certificate is sent — either as a digital PDF (default and fastest) or a printed paper copy by mail.

Special Handling

Copyright Office
United States Copyright Office

Home | My Profile | Help | Contact Us | Log Out

Form Pay Submit Work

Case #: 1-15022430874
Application Format: Standard
Date Opened: 10/16/2025

eCO Navigation Tips

Links	Completed
Type of Work	✓
Titles	✓
Publication/Completion	✓
Authors	✓
Claimants	✓
Limitation of Claim	✓
Rights & Permissions	✓
Correspondent	✓
Mail Certificate	✓
Special Handling	
Certification	
Review Submission	

<< Back | Continue >> | Save For Later

Special handling is expedited service that is available only to filers who satisfy one or more of the compelling reasons below. Special handling also carries a significant surcharge fee. If you do not qualify for special handling service, please click the Continue button without completing this screen.

Note: The significant special handling surcharge fee is non-refundable. Please click [here](#) to review the current fee.

Special Handling (The information requested below is required for Special Handling claims)

Compelling Reason(s) (At least one must be selected)

Pending or prospective litigation

Customs matters

Contract or publishing deadlines that necessitate the expedited issuance of a certificate

I certify that I am the author, copyright claimant of exclusive rights, or the authorized agent of the author, copyright claimant of exclusive rights of this work.

Explanation for Special Handling:
This is the place to give any comments/instructions regarding special handling specific to this claim.

Privacy Act Notice: Sections 408-410 of title 17 of the United States Code authorize the Copyright Office to collect the personally identifying information requested on this form in order to process the application for copyright registration. By providing this information you are agreeing to routine uses of the information that include publication to give legal notice of your copyright claim as required by 17 U.S.C. § 705. It will appear in the Office's online catalog. If you do not provide the information requested, registration may be refused or delayed, and you may not be entitled to certain relief, remedies, and benefits under the copyright law.

[Take Our Survey!](#)

21. Fill Out/Skip Special Handling & Click “Continue

Most creators can skip this section — but if time is critical, Special Handling lets you request expedited processing of your registration.

Normally, a copyright application takes several weeks (sometimes months) to process. With Special Handling, the Copyright Office will review it in just a few business days — but only if you meet one of their approved reasons and pay a higher fee (currently \$1,000).

You can request Special Handling only if:

- You have a pending or prospective lawsuit about the work.
- You need the certificate for contract or publishing deadlines that can't wait.
- There are urgent customs or import issues involving your work.

When you choose this option, you'll need to upload a short written explanation (even a brief paragraph) describing the reason and attach any relevant documentation — like a court filing or contract deadline.

⚡ Pro Tip: Unless you're facing a real legal deadline, skip Special Handling. A regular registration gives you the same protection — it just takes longer to receive your certificate.

Certification & Review

Copyright United States Copyright Office

Home | My Profile | Help | Contact Us | Log Out |

Form Pay Submit Work

Case #: 1-15022430874 Date Opened: 10/16/2025

Application Format: Standard

eCO Navigation Tips

Certification

<< Back || Continue >> Save For Later

Links	Completed
Type of Work	✓
Titles	✓
Publication/Completion	✓
Authors	✓
Claimants	✓
Limitation of Claim	✓
Rights & Permissions	✓
Correspondent	✓
Mail Certificate	✓
Special Handling	✓
Certification	✓
Review Submission	

The Application must be certified by the author, copyright claimant, or owner of exclusive right(s), or by the authorized agent of any of the preceding.

17 USC 506(e): Any person who knowingly makes a false representation of a material fact in the application for copyright registration provided by section 409, or in any written statement filed with the application, shall be fined not more than \$2500.

* I certify that I am the author, copyright claimant, or owner of exclusive rights, or the authorized agent of the author, copyright claimant, or owner of exclusive rights of this work and that the information given in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

* Name of certifying individual:

Applicant's Internal Tracking Number (Optional):

Note to Copyright Office (Optional):
This is the place to give any comments specific to this claim, the application, or the deposit copy, if necessary.

Privacy Act Notice: Sections 408-410 of title 17 of the United States Code authorize the Copyright Office to collect the personally identifying information requested on this form in order to process the application for copyright registration. By providing this information you are agreeing to routine uses of the information that include publication to give legal notice of your copyright claim as required by 17 U.S.C. § 705. It will appear in the Office's online catalog. If you do not provide the information requested, registration may be refused or delayed, and you may not be entitled to certain relief, remedies, and benefits under the copyright law.

[Take Our Survey!](#)

22. Certify & Click “Continue”
This is simply whoever is filling out the registration form...

23. Review & “Add to Cart”
Make sure you review all of your answers.

Copyright United States Copyright Office

Home | My Profile | Help | Contact Us | Log Out |

Form Pay Submit Work

Review Submission

<< Back || Save For Later || Save Template || Add to Cart

eCO Navigation Tips

Links	Completed
Type of Work	✓
Titles	✓
Publication/Completion	✓
Authors	✓
Claimants	✓
Limitation of Claim	✓
Rights & Permissions	✓
Correspondent	✓
Mail Certificate	✓
Special Handling	✓
Certification	✓
Review Submission	✓

Please review the entire submission on this screen. If you need to revise any information, return to the appropriate data entry screen to make the revision. When the entire submission is correct, click the “Add to Cart” button at the top of the screen. **Warning: Once you submit your application, you cannot make changes to it. Therefore, please review the information on this screen carefully before proceeding.**

Case Summary

Case Number: 1-15022430874 Application Format: Standard Case Type: Literary Work

Contact Name: Reena Sehgal Opened: 10/16/2025

All Titles 1 - 1 of 1

Title of Work	Volume	Number	Issue Date	Type	On Page
The Movie Script				Title of work being registered	

Publication/Completion 1 - 1 of 1

Published Work	Year Created	Publication Date	Nation of First Publication	ISN Type	IS Number	Preregistration Number
No	2025					

Authors & Contributions (TX) 1 - 1 of 1

Name	Organization Name	Work For Hire	Citizenship	Domicile	Year of Birth	Year of Death	Anonymous	Pseudonymous	Pseudonym	Text	Photo	Art	Computer Program	Created Other
John Doe		No	United States				N	N		Y	N	N	N	

Payment & Upload

Copyright United States Copyright Office

Home | My Profile | Help | Contact Us | Log Out |

My Cart

Form Pay Submit Work

[Add More Services](#) [Checkout](#)

Filing fees and some service fees are non-refundable

Your Contact Information

Name: Reena Sehgal Address: 15260 Ventura Blvd., Suite 1200
Organization Name: City: Sherman Oaks
Email Address: reena@rsehgallaw.com State: CA
Phone #: (818) 582-2421 Postal Code: 91403
Alternate Phone #: (424) 324-0033 Country:

Cases in Cart 1 - 1 of 1

Case #	Status	Opened	Title	Vol/ Num/Issue	Month/Year	Type of Case	Fee Due	Remove to Working Cases
1-15022430874	In-Cart	10/16/2025	The Movie Script			Literary Work	\$65.00	
Total Due:							\$65.00	

Case Details 1 - 1 of 1

Reference Id	Fee Type	Quantity	Rate	Amount Due
1-6WFYTXQ	Literary Works - Basic (Web)	1	\$65.00	\$65.00

Attachments

24. Enter Payment Information & Click “Checkout”

25. Upload Your Work

This is the part where you submit your actual work — the script, song, film, or other creative material you’re registering. The file you upload becomes the official record stored by the U.S. Copyright Office.

✔ What You Should Upload

Upload the complete version of the work you’re protecting — not just an excerpt or sample.

- Screenplays / Teleplays: PDF, Final Draft (.fdx), or Word file.
- Songs / Lyrics: PDF for sheet music or lyrics; MP3/WAV for recordings.
- Short Films / Videos: MP4, MOV, or another standard digital format.
- Books / Written Works: PDF, DOCX, or TXT files.

💡 Pro Tip: Your file should be the same version you want legally recorded — make sure it’s final (or clearly labeled as a draft if that’s what you’re protecting).

Accepted File Formats


The Copyright Office accepts nearly all common digital formats, including:

- Text: PDF, DOCX, TXT, RTF
- Audio: MP3, WAV, AIFF
- Video: MP4, MOV, AVI
- Images: JPG, PNG, TIFF

If you're unsure, stick with PDF for written work — it's universally accepted and stable long-term.


File Size Limits & Upload Tips

- Each individual file must be under 500 MB.
- You can upload up to 10 files per registration.
- If your file is too large, compress it or export a smaller resolution version.
- Avoid spaces or special characters in file names — use simple titles like:
- RisingShadows_Screenplay_Revised.pdf

 **Important:** Do not password-protect your file — the Copyright Office must be able to open and review it.

Confirmation

Once your file is uploaded and payment is submitted, your application is complete. You'll receive an email confirmation immediately, followed by your certificate once it's approved.

 **Pro Tip:** Save both the confirmation email and your uploaded file copy in a secure folder — together, they're your proof until your certificate arrives.

You're Done — What Happens Next

Once you've uploaded your file and paid the registration fee, your application is officially in the system. You'll immediately receive a confirmation email from the U.S. Copyright Office — this is your proof of filing, so keep it somewhere safe.

From here, the Office reviews your application, verifies your materials, and processes your registration.


Digital works (like scripts, music, or PDFs) are typically approved within 2–4 months. Physical deposits (like mailed books or CDs) can take longer — sometimes up to six months or more.

When your registration is complete, you'll receive your official certificate of registration.

If you chose digital delivery, it'll appear right in your online account as a downloadable PDF. If you selected paper mail, you'll get a printed copy at the address you listed earlier. That certificate is your legal proof of ownership — the final piece of your creative paper trail. It's what allows you to enforce your rights, license your work, and confidently say: **“This story, this song, this idea — it's mine.”**

Copyright registration isn't just a formality — it's a milestone. It means you've taken your project seriously enough to protect it like a professional.

And once it's registered, it's yours for life (plus 70 years). No annual renewals, no hidden fees, just lasting proof that your creativity belongs to you.

 **Thoolie Pro members also unlock our Copyright Deep Dive — covering co-authorship, transfers, and derivative works — for when your project evolves into something even bigger.**