



In answer to your query

COPYRIGHT REGISTRATION OF VISUAL ARTS

FL-115

The visual arts category consists of pictorial, graphic, or sculptural works, including two- and three-dimensional works of fine, graphic, and applied art. Examples of such works include photographs; original prints; art reproductions; cartographic works, such as maps, globes, and relief models; technical and mechanical drawings; and architectural drawings, plans, blueprints, or diagrams.

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.

The back side of this form letter describes the options for applying to register works of the visual arts. The deposit requirements will vary, depending on the nature of the work and whether it has been published prior to registration. For more information, see circular 40A, *Deposit Requirements for Registration of Claims to Copyright in Visual Arts Material*.

If the visual art is *published*, the proper deposit is generally two complete copies. Identifying material can be deposited in some cases. If the visual art is unpublished, one complete copy is generally required.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 two-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" x 3" in size, and not more than 9" x 12", but preferably 8" x 10". 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.

For more information, see 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.

Registering a Copyright with the U.S. Copyright Office

An application for copyright registration contains three essential elements: a completed application form, a nonrefundable filing fee, and a nonreturnable deposit—that is, a copy or copies of the work being registered and “deposited” with the Copyright Office.

A copyright registration is effective on the date the Copyright Office receives all the required elements in acceptable form.

Online Registration

Online registration through the electronic Copyright Office (eCO) is the preferred way to register basic claims for literary works; visual arts works; performing arts works, including motion pictures; sound recordings; and single serials.

Advantages of eCO filing include the lowest filing fee; the fastest processing time; online status tracking; secure payment by credit or debit card, electronic check, or Copyright Office deposit account; and the ability to upload certain categories of deposits directly into eCO as electronic files. To access eCO, go to the Copyright Office website and click on *electronic Copyright Office*.

Fill-In Form CO

The new fill-in Form CO is the next-best option for registering basic claims. Simply complete Form CO on your personal computer,

print it out, and mail it along with a check or money order and your deposit. To access Form CO, go to the Copyright Office website and click on *Forms*.

Registration with Paper Forms

Paper versions of Forms TX (literary works); VA (visual arts works); PA (performing arts works); SR (sound recordings); SE (single serials); and CON (continuation sheet for paper applications) are still available. However, these paper forms are not accessible on the Copyright Office website; staff will send them by postal mail upon request (limit of two copies of each form). Certain other applications *must* be completed on paper and mailed to the Copyright Office with the appropriate fee and deposit. These applications, available on the Office’s website by clicking on *Forms*, include Form RE (renewal of copyright claims) and forms for group submissions. For a complete list, see SL-35, *Registering a Copyright with the U.S. Copyright Office*.

See Circular 1, *Copyright Basics*, for complete details about copyright, deposit requirements, and registration procedures.

NOTE: Copyright Office fees are subject to change. For current fees, please check the Copyright Office website, write the Copyright Office, or call (202) 707-3000.

For Further Information

By Internet

Circulars, announcements, regulations, certain application forms, and other materials are available from the Copyright Office website at www.copyright.gov. To send an email communication, click on *Contact Us* at the bottom of the homepage.

By Telephone

For general information about copyright, call the Copyright Public Information Office at (202) 707-3000. Staff members are on duty from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, eastern time, Monday

through Friday, except federal holidays. Recorded information is available 24 hours a day. To request paper application forms or circulars, call the Forms and Publications Hotline at (202) 707-9100 and leave a recorded message.

By Regular Mail

Write to
*Library of Congress
Copyright Office-COPUBS
101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20059-6304*