

BASIC COPYRIGHTS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OWNERSHIP

What can be copyrighted?

A work is automatically given copyright protection as soon as it is created, and it doesn't even need to be published. For example, a novel you wrote on your computer has copyright protection, just like the newest James Patterson novel on the library shelf.

Keep in mind, a work or creation has to be original and it has to be expressed in a physical form. So that great idea for a computer program you had won't be copyrighted until you program it!

Do creators have rights?

The creator/author/owner of these works have exclusive rights to these works. So, you have exclusive rights over what happens or what you decide to do to your work. This means that James Patterson's publisher or the writer of that New York Times article you want to print also have rights! This is the LAW.

It is called: **17 USC §106. Exclusive rights in copyrighted works.**

Owner's Exclusive Rights	Infringement Constitutes	Laymen's Terms
Reproduce the copyrighted work by making copies	Reproducing the work in whole or any substantial part by duplicating it exactly or by imitation or simulation.	Reproducing a work includes making a copy of a computer program, quoting a sentence, downloading something from the internet, or recasting a statue.
Prepare derivative works	Reproducing a work based upon an already existing copyrighted work, incorporating a portion of the existing work in some form.	A derivative work includes works based upon an existing work. I.e.: a translation of a book, a movie adapted from a book, or art inspired by an existing painting.
Distribute copies of the work publicly by selling it or transferring ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending	The owner has the right to control the first public distribution of the work; unauthorized distribution is infringement.	Distributing a work includes posting a picture on a website, transferring the rights to a publisher to sell a book, or posting a video to YouTube.
Perform the work publicly	The owner has the right to control the public performance of the work; unauthorized performance is infringement.	Performing includes Reciting a poem from a notebook at a poetry slam, singing a song at a concert, or showing a film at a film festival.
Display the copyrighted work publicly	The owner has the right to control the public display of the work; unauthorized performance is infringement.	Displaying a work means erecting a statue in a town square, hanging a poster at a poster session, or exhibiting a painting at an art fair.

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References

Copyright Act (1976) 17 USC §106. Exclusive rights in copyrighted works. Retrieved from,

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