

Copyright Law

Copyright

- A form of legal protection given to the creators of “original works of authorship,” including literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works.
- U.S. copyright law generally gives the author of an original creative work an **exclusive right to:**
 1. **Reproduce** (copy) or distribute the original work to the public,
 2. **Create new works** based upon the original work, and
 3. **Perform or display** the work publicly.
- In order for copyright to be granted, the author or creator must prove that their work is **original**.

What is the main purpose of copyright law?

- The main purpose of copyright law is to **promote the progress of science and the useful arts**.

What types of works are protected by copyright law?

- Literary works
- Music and lyrics
- Dramatic works and music
- Pantomimes and choreographic works
- Photographs, graphics, paintings, and sculptural works
- Motion pictures and other audiovisual works
- Video games and computer software
- Audio recordings
- Architectural works



Printing Press

- Revolutionized the world, making the printed work available to the public.

Copyright Infringement

- A violation of the exclusive rights of a copyright holder, such as copying, distributing, or performing the copyright owner’s work without permission unless the use is otherwise authorized by law.

Fair Use

- Fair use permits a second user to copy part or all of a copyrighted work under certain circumstances.

License

- Permission granted by the copyright holder to copy, distribute, display, transform and/or perform a copyrighted work.

Plagiarism

- The practice of passing off another's work or ideas as one's own.

Public Domain

- Works that are not restricted by copyright and do not require a license or fee to use.

What is the public domain?

- There are **three main categories** of public domain works:
 1. Works that automatically enter the public domain upon creation because they are not copyrightable:
 - Titles, names, short phrases and slogans, familiar symbols, numbers
 - Ideas and facts (such as the date of the *Gettysburg Address*)
 - Processes and systems
 - Government works and documents
 2. Works that have been assigned to the public domain by their creators.
 3. Works that have entered the public domain because the copyright on them as expired.

The Statue of Anne

- An **act of Parliament of Great Britain** (1710).
- It was the first statute to provide for copyright regulated by the government and courts, rather than by private parties.

U.S. Constitution

- **U.S. copyright law originally was based on the Statue of Anne.**
- There is a provision about copyright law in Article I, section 8 of the Constitution: *"The Congress shall have the power...to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries."*

How long does copyright last?

- For original works created after 1977, copyright lasts for the life of the author/creator for **70 plus years from the author's death** for his/her heirs.
- For "works made for hire" corporate works and anonymous works created after 1977, copyright can last from 95-120 years from publication.

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