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Hot Topics

New basic registration fee: \$45
Fee increase effective July 1, 2006 (read about [all new fees](#))

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HOW TO REGISTER- Visual Art Works

Follow these steps to register your pictorial, graphic, sculptural, or architectural work:

Step 1

Make sure your work is a visual arts work. Visual arts are pictorial, graphic, or sculptural works, including 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional works of fine, graphic, and applied art. Here are [examples](#) of visual arts. "Useful articles" may have both copyrightable and noncopyrightable features ([read details](#)). Some architectural works also qualify as visual arts works ([read details](#)).

Step 2

Put into one envelope or package:

- a completed application [Form VA](#) and [Form CON](#) if needed.
- a \$45 payment to "Register of Copyrights."
- nonreturnable copy(ies) of the material to be registered. Read details on [deposit requirements](#).

Please read this important notice about [mail delivery disruption](#).

Step 3

Send the package to:

Library of Congress
Copyright Office
101 Independence Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

Your registration becomes effective on the day that the Copyright Office receives your application, payment, and copy(ies) in acceptable form. If your submission is in order, you will receive a certificate of registration in approximately 4 months.

For more details, please see Circular 40, [Copyright Registration for Works of the Visual Arts](#); Circular 40a, [Deposit Requirements in Visual Arts Material](#); Circular 41, [Copyright Claims in Architectural Works](#); Circular 44, [Cartoons and Comic Strips](#) and other [informational circulars](#).

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HOW TO REGISTER PERFORMING ARTS WORKS

 

Performing Art Works

Follow these steps to register your musical work, dramatic work, script, pantomime, choreography, motion picture, or other audiovisual work:

Step 1

Make sure your work is a performing arts work. Performing arts works are intended to be "performed" directly before an audience or indirectly "by means of any device or process." Included are (1) [musical works](#), including any accompanying words; (2) dramatic works, such as [scripts](#), including any accompanying music; (3) [pantomimes and choreographic works](#); and (4) [motion pictures](#) and other audiovisual works.

Note: Performing arts registration is not the same as registering a sound recording. Read more about choosing the [correct registration method](#). To register sound recordings, see the [Sound Recordings](#) instructions. [Read more](#) about the registration of musical compositions and sound recordings.

Step 2

Put into one envelope or package:

- a completed application [Form PA](#) or [Short Form PA](#) and [Form CON](#) if needed (choose [which form](#) to use).
- a \$45 payment to "Register of Copyrights."
- nonreturnable copy(ies) of the material to be registered. (Read details on deposit requirements for [musical compositions](#), [motion pictures](#).)

Please read this important notice about [mail delivery disruption](#).

Step 3

Send the package to:

Library of Congress
Copyright Office
101 Independence Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

Your registration becomes effective on the day that the Copyright Office receives your application, payment, and copy(ies) in acceptable form. If your submission is in order, you will receive a certificate of registration in 4 to 5 months.

For more details, please see Circular 45, [Copyright Registration for Motions Pictures Including Video Recordings](#); Circular 50, [Copyright Registration for Musical Compositions](#); Circular 55, [Copyright Registration for Multimedia Works](#); and other [informational circulars](#).

The Copyright Office is changing the format of certain copyright registration certificates, as part of a pilot project that involves registrations for motion pictures and other audiovisual works. ([read more](#))

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Sound Recordings

Follow these steps to register your recording of music, drama, or a lecture:

Step 1

Make sure your work is a sound recording. Sound recordings are “works that result from the fixation of a series of musical, spoken, or other sounds, but not including the sounds accompanying a motion picture or other audiovisual work.” Common examples include recordings of music, drama, or lectures ([read details](#)).

Copyright registration for a sound recording alone is neither the same as, nor a substitute for, registration for the musical, dramatic, or literary work recorded. The underlying work may be registered in its own right apart from any recording of the performance, or in certain cases, the underlying work may be registered together with the sound recording ([read details](#) on choosing the correct form).

Note: To register performing arts works, see the [Performing Arts](#) instructions. [Read more](#) about the registration of musical compositions and sound recordings.

Step 2

Put into one envelope or package:

- a completed application [Form SR](#) and [Form CON](#) if needed.
- a \$45 payment to "Register of Copyrights."
- nonreturnable copy(ies) of the material to be registered ([read details](#))

Please read this important notice about [mail delivery disruption](#).

Step 3

Send the package to:

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101 Independence Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

Your registration becomes effective on the day that the Copyright Office receives your application, payment, and copy(ies) in acceptable form. If your submission is in order, you will receive a certificate of registration in approximately 4 months.

For more details, please see Circular 56, [Copyright Registration for Sound Recordings](#) and other [informational circulars](#).

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Literary Works

Follow these steps to register your book, manuscript, online work, poetry, or other text:

Step 1

Make sure your work is a literary work. Literary works may be published or unpublished and include nondramatic textual works with or without illustrations. Computer programs and databases also are considered literary works. Here are [more examples and specific information](#).

To register serials and periodicals, see the [Serial Works](#) instructions.

Step 2

Put into one envelope or package:

- a completed application [Form TX](#) or [Short Form TX](#) and [Form CON](#) if needed (choose [which form](#) to use)
- a \$45 payment to "Register of Copyrights."
- nonreturnable copy(ies) of the material to be registered. Read details on [deposit requirements](#).

Please read this important notice about [mail delivery disruption](#).

Step 3

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Your registration becomes effective on the day that the Copyright Office receives your application, payment, and copy(ies) in acceptable form. If your submission is in order, you will receive a certificate of registration in approximately 4 months.

For more details about copyright, please see our [information circulars](#).

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