



## Copyright: Why Register?

It is not necessary to register your copyright in order to enforce your rights. So why bother?

A copyright registration acts as proof of your ownership in the work. If you were to bring a lawsuit against an infringer, one of the first things you would have to do is prove that you are the author and/or owner of the copyright work. That is not as simple as it sounds and adds time, complication and expense. With a copyright registration in hand, the court will accept that you are the owner. The onus then shifts to the infringer to disprove your ownership.

In addition, registration ensures that you have access to the full range of remedies available for infringement. Sometimes an infringer will claim "innocent infringement", that is, that he or she didn't know you were the owner of the work. If the court finds that is the case, certain remedies may not be available to you. A registration acts as public notice of your ownership and that will defeat any claim of "innocent infringement" and ensure you are able to secure the remedies you need.

It is simple and inexpensive to register, so if you are concerned about counterfeiting, or other forms of infringement, it is wise to take this step.

