



COPYRIGHT PROTECTS CREATIVE WORKS

WHAT IS COPYRIGHT?

- A protection for creative work.
- A legal right that is granted under Ireland's Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000 (revised in 2019) to any person who has created an original work.
- Copyright gives the person who created the work the right to decide how the work can be used.
- Copyright makes it possible for creators to get paid for their creative work.

WHAT RIGHTS DOES THE CREATOR HAVE?

- The creator receives economic rights AND moral rights.
- The creator gets to determine how the work is used and how their ownership is credited.

For example:

1. If the work can be published.
2. If copies of the work should be printed or made available in a digital format.
3. If the work can be used as part of another work, such as if a piece of music can be used in a film or in advertising.
4. If the work can be adapted into another art form, such as if a book can be adapted into a film.
5. If the work can be modified, for instance, an image edited, or a book translated into another language.

Copyright makes it possible to earn a living from creative work



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WHAT DOES COPYRIGHT PROTECT?

- Independent and original expression of ideas, information, theories, or principles recorded/fixed in some way as hard copy or digitally.
- Literary, artistic, dramatic and musical works.
- Provided the result of the creative work possesses a certain level of creativity, is original and independent, and expresses the creator's personal choices.
- No specific quality or artistic merit is required.

WHAT DOES COPYRIGHT NOT PROTECT?

- The information, data, ideas, plot, or methods used in a work are not protected.
- Therefore, you are free to use information, data, ideas, and methods, provided you create your own original expression (e.g., text, painting) that reaches a certain level of creativity.

HOW DOES COPYRIGHT PROTECTION ARISE?

- Copyright protection arises automatically as soon as a work is created.
- There is no need to register the work.
- There is no requirement to use the © symbol.
- Works are protected for the creator's lifetime plus 70 years after the end of the year of the creator's death.



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WHO OWNS THE COPYRIGHT?

- Copyright always belongs to the creator of the work.
- The creator is the person who has created the work: For example, composers, lyricists, authors, directors, cinematographers, illustrators, photographers.
- The creator can assign or transfer all or parts of their economic rights to someone else (e.g. an author may give a publisher exclusive licence to publish their book in print and digitally.)
- The person/organisation to whom/which these rights are assigned becomes the rightsholder.
- The rightsholder can be an individual, a company, an educational institution, or another organisation.

WHAT RIGHTS DOES THE CREATOR HAVE?

Economic rights

- Reproduction of the work and the format used, for example through copying, scanning and re-typing.
- Making the work available to the public, for example through publishing and/or broadcasting via tv, radio and the internet.
- Adapting the work, for example to another language and/or medium.

Moral rights

- Paternity right: The right to be identified as the creator of a work when it is used.
- Integrity right: The work cannot be used or altered in a way that damages the creator's reputation. A work cannot be falsely attributed to a creator.