



## Registering Your Copyright

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### notes

As an artist, you automatically hold the copyright to your artwork when it is created. Copyright registration, however, offers substantial benefits in the event your artwork is copied and used without your permission.

Registration is a straightforward process that generally does not require much time or legal knowledge. The forms and detailed instructions can be downloaded from the Copyright Office web site ([www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov)). The registration fee is \$45 and covers multiple works registered at the same time.

The Copyright Office now accepts digital images to satisfy the requirement to deposit a copy of the artwork registered. This means you can send low-resolution JPEG images of your artwork on a CD with the registration application.

By registering your artwork with the U.S. Copyright Office within either three months of "publication" (to a web site, for example) or before infringement occurs, you can recover statutory damages and attorney fees from an infringer. Statutory damages are advantageous because they are awarded by the courts and do not require you to prove any specific loss.