

# Copyright

**What Is Copyright?** A form of protection provided by the laws of the United States (as well as international treaties including the Berne Convention) to the authors of **original works of authorship** and includes literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and certain other intellectual property works. **Original** means that the creator through his/her own creative mind only produced the work. Copyright gives the owner of the copyright the **exclusive right** to do and to authorize others to do the following: reproduce, prepare derivatives, distribute, publically perform, and publically display the work.

## Authorship, Ownership, & Term

**Who is an author?** An author is an individual who contributed to the **creative expression** of the work. Colleagues, students, and reviewers, even though they may have reviewed a work and offered suggestions, may not be creators unless they contributed to the creative expression of the work.

**Who is the owner?** The author is usually the owner *unless* the author's employer owns the work through **work-for-hire** rules or the author **assigned** the copyright to the employer.

**How long does the copyright last?** If the author owns the copyright, the term is **life of the author plus 70 years**. If the employer owns the work as a work for hire (not by assignment) it is **95 years from date of first publication or 120 years from date of creation, whichever expires first**.

## What is Copyrightable?

Copyrightable subject matter

# FAQs

## Disclosure of Creatorship