

# CREATIVE WORKS & THE WORLD OF COPYRIGHTS

BY PROFESSOR GARY GRAVES



## Copyrights & The Law

Copyrights are the most commonly used intellectual property protection tool in business. It is a provision in Title 17 of the U.S. Code that protects creative products. More specifically, the government states that it grants automatic protection to printed works, software, artwork, photos, video, and virtually everything on the internet once it is “fixed in any tangible medium of expression.”

## Freelancers, Joint Authorship, and Work For Hire



One common issue arises when an employee or freelance artist creates something for his employer or client. Who owns the work? The short answer: it depends. Generally, an employee’s work belongs to the employer, so long as the work was created within the scope of employment.



## Registering a Claim

On a personal note, I’d like to share with you my copyright experience. In 2020, I wrote and published a children’s book called “Chippy the Cheetah rides 545 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles” It is a cute story about three things I love, Cycling, The AIDS Lifecycle, and Cheetahs. The entire copyright process took less than 10 minutes. I pointed my browser to the [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov) portal and set up my account. From the HOME page, I clicked on “Literary Works,” then “Register A Literary Work.” From the left side of my screen, I clicked on “Register A New Claim,” then I clicked “Start Registration.” I had to provide the ISBN number, title of my book, and some personal information. I could have registered this work before it was published too. The second step was to pay the U.S. Copyright Office. Since this was an online registration it was \$45. The last step was to upload a PDF copy of my book. That was it.

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