



In answer to your query

GROUP REGISTRATION OF PUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPHS

FL-124

Claims to copyright in published and unpublished photographs can be registered in the Copyright Office. This form letter describes the methods available for applying to register groups of published photographs, including contributions to periodicals. For details about how to register single published and unpublished photographs, collections of unpublished photographs, and photographs published together in a unit, such as in a calendar or a book, see FL-107, *Copyright Registration of Photographs*. For complete details about application procedures, fees, and deposit requirements, see Circular 1, *Copyright Basics*; Circular 40, *Copyright Registration for Works of the Visual Arts*; and Circular 40A, *Deposit Requirements for Registration of Claims to Copyright in Visual Arts Material*.

PUBLICATION Under copyright law, publication is the distribution of copies of a work—in this case, a photograph—to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership or by rental, lease, or lending. Offering to distribute copies to a group of people for purposes of further distribution or public display also constitutes publication. However, a public display of a photograph does not in itself constitute publication.

The definition of publication in the U.S. copyright law does not specifically address online transmission. The Copyright Office therefore asks applicants, who know the facts surrounding distribution of their works, to determine whether works are published.

GROUPS OF PUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPHS A group of published photographs can be registered on a single form with a single fee if (a) all the photographs are by the same photographer (if an employer for hire is named as author, only one photographer's work can be included); (b) all the photographs are published in the same calendar year; and (c) all the photographs have the same copyright claimant.

You can use Form GR/PPh/CON, which includes Form VA (visual arts application), to register groups of published photographs. It is available on the Copyright Office's website at www.copyright.gov. If you use Form GR/PPh/CON, you can apply to register up to 750 photographs on a single application. If you would like to register more than 750 photographs, you can do so with a single filing fee using Form CO or Form VA if you identify the date of publication for each photograph on the images deposited with the application. For details about Forms CO and VA, see the instructions on the back of this form letter.

NOTE: Online registration through the electronic Copyright Office (eCO) is not available at this time for groups of published photographs.

PUBLISHED CONTRIBUTIONS TO PERIODICALS Photographs published in periodicals (newspapers or magazines) in any 12-month period can be combined on Form GR/CP, which includes Form VA, and submitted with a single filing fee. Form GR/CP is available on the Office's website. Special rules apply: (a) the same individual author must have created all the photos; (b) no employer for hire can be named as author; (c) all the photos must have been published as contributions to periodicals within a 12-month period; and (d) all the photos must have the same copyright claimant.

Sincerely yours,

Register of Copyrights

Copyright Office fees are subject to change. For current fees, please check the Copyright Office website at www.copyright.gov, write the Copyright Office, or call (202) 707-3000.

Registering a Copyright with the U.S. Copyright Office

An application for copyright registration contains three essential elements: a completed application form, a nonrefundable filing fee, and a nonreturnable deposit—that is, a copy or copies of the work being registered and “deposited” with the Copyright Office.

A copyright registration is effective on the date the Copyright Office receives all the required elements in acceptable form.

Online Registration

Online registration through the electronic Copyright Office (eCO) is the preferred way to register basic claims for literary works; visual arts works; performing arts works, including motion pictures; sound recordings; and single serials.

Advantages of eCO filing include the lowest filing fee; the fastest processing time; online status tracking; secure payment by credit or debit card, electronic check, or Copyright Office deposit account; and the ability to upload certain categories of deposits directly into eCO as electronic files. To access eCO, go to the Copyright Office website and click on *electronic Copyright Office*.

Fill-In Form CO

The new fill-in Form CO is the next-best option for registering basic claims. Simply complete Form CO on your personal computer,

print it out, and mail it along with a check or money order and your deposit. To access Form CO, go to the Copyright Office website and click on *Forms*.

Registration with Paper Forms

Paper versions of Forms TX (literary works); VA (visual arts works); PA (performing arts works); SR (sound recordings); SE (single serials); and CON (continuation sheet for paper applications) are still available. However, these paper forms are not accessible on the Copyright Office website; staff will send them by postal mail upon request (limit of two copies of each form). Certain other applications *must* be completed on paper and mailed to the Copyright Office with the appropriate fee and deposit. These applications, available on the Office’s website by clicking on *Forms*, include Form RE (renewal of copyright claims) and forms for group submissions. For a complete list, see SL-35, *Registering a Copyright with the U.S. Copyright Office*.

See Circular 1, *Copyright Basics*, for complete details about copyright, deposit requirements, and registration procedures.

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For Further Information

By Internet

Circulars, announcements, regulations, certain application forms, and other materials are available from the Copyright Office website at www.copyright.gov. To send an email communication, click on *Contact Us* at the bottom of the homepage.

By Telephone

For general information about copyright, call the Copyright Public Information Office at (202) 707-3000. Staff members are on duty from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, eastern time, Monday

through Friday, except federal holidays. Recorded information is available 24 hours a day. To request paper application forms or circulars, call the Forms and Publications Hotline at (202) 707-9100 and leave a recorded message.

By Regular Mail

Write to
*Library of Congress
Copyright Office-COPUBS
101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20059-6304*