

Frequently Asked Questions on Copyright Licensing

What is copyright?

Copyright law gives the copyright holder (Rootlight International Inc.) the right to control certain uses of works that are protected by copyright.

What is protected by copyright?

In the United States, copyright protects only “original works of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression.” To be eligible for copyright protection, a work must be:

Original: To qualify as original, the work must be created independently and must have “at least a modicum” of creativity.

A work of authorship: Works of authorship include literary works, musical works, pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works, audiovisual works, and sound recordings, as well as many other types of creative works.

Fixed: A work must also be "fixed in a tangible medium of expression" by or under the authorization of the author like writing a work on paper, on a website or on a computer hard drive or recording a work on CD or DVD.

How is plagiarism related to copyright?

Copyright infringement and plagiarism are related but distinct concepts.

Plagiarism is using the work of another without attribution.

Copyright infringement is the reproduction, modification, distribution, public performance, or public display of a copyrighted work without the permission of the rightsholder. It is possible to plagiarize even when copyright allows you to use the work.

Similarly, it is possible to infringe copyright even when you have given careful attribution.

How do works get copyright protection?

In the United States, copyright protection automatically covers all new copyrightable works. The moment the work is fixed in a tangible medium of expression, it is subject to copyright.

How long does copyright last?

Most works created in the United States will be protected until 70 years after the death of their last surviving author.

Who is the initial copyright holder?

Under US law, the initial copyright holder is the author of the work.

In most cases, copyright law treats the creator(s) of the work as the author(s). If someone creates a work as an employee (or in certain cases, as a contractor), that person’s employer is considered the author of the work.

What are the rights of a copyright holder?

A) Economic rights

In US law, the economic rights of copyright holders are listed in Section 106 of the Copyright Act:

- to reproduce the copyrighted work in copies or phonorecords;
- to prepare derivative works based upon the copyrighted work;
- to distribute copies or phonorecords of the copyrighted work to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending;
- in the case of literary, musical, dramatic, and choreographic works, pantomimes, and motion pictures and other audiovisual works, to perform the copyrighted work publicly;
- in the case of literary, musical, dramatic, and choreographic works, pantomimes, and pictorial, graphic, or sculptural works, including the individual images of a motion picture or other audiovisual work, to display the copyrighted work publicly; and
- in the case of sound recordings, to perform the copyrighted work publicly by means of a digital audio transmission.

B) Moral rights

The legal doctrine of moral rights recognizes the personal reputation of an artist or creator. Moral rights include the right of attribution and the right of integrity.

The right of attribution means that that the creator has the right to have their name associated with their work -- or disassociated if the work is damaged or modified in a way that leads the artist to feel that the work is no longer an embodiment of their intended expression.

The right of integrity means that the work may not be changed, altered, distorted, or mutilated.

Does copyright law permit my use?

Copyright law gives the copyright holder (often the author or publisher) the right to control reproduction, modification, distribution to the public, public performance, and public display of works protected by copyright.

If the work you want to use is protected by copyright, using it without permission will implicate one of those rights. There are a few things to consider before using copyrighted materials:

- Is the work protected by copyright?
- Has the work's rightsholder already granted a license that would permit you to use it?
- Can you get permission to use it?

How do I get permission from Rootlight to use their copyrighted material(s)?

Please visit Rootlight.com/licensing and download the document "Application for RTL Copyright License".

Read the document thoroughly and fill in all information needed.

Send the completed application, your latest CV/Resume and samples of your work to licensing@rootlight.com.

Who reviews my application?

Rootlight International Inc. has set up a review committee dedicated to reviewing all applications. Your application is treated confidentially and according to the standards of Divine Spiritual Wisdom and good business practices.

The composition of the committee will vary depending on the product and/or project in review.

The approval process may take up to 30 days. With larger projects, the application process may be more complex and might need additional 15 – 30 days.

Is there a difference between classes, performances and recordings?

Yes.

Because recordings are a different medium from live performances, Rootlight requires an application be completed for each even if the content is the same.