

Harms of Copyright Piracy

What is "Copyright"?

Which types of work are subject to copyright?

Copyright ownership gives the owner the exclusive right to use the work, with some exceptions. When a person creates an original work, fixed in a tangible medium, he or she automatically owns copyright to the work.

Many types of works are eligible for copyright protection, for example:

- Audiovisual works, such as TV shows, movies, and online videos
- Sound recordings and musical compositions
- Written works, such as lectures, articles, books, and musical compositions
- Visual works, such as paintings, posters, and advertisements
- Video games and computer software
- Dramatic works, such as plays and musicals

The [Copyright Office](#) has information online, and you can check with a lawyer if you want to know more.

Is it possible to use a copyright-protected work without infringing?

Yes, in some circumstances, it is possible to use a copyright-protected work without infringing the owner's copyright. For more about this, you may wish to learn about [fair use](#). It is important to note that your content can be removed in response to a claim of copyright infringement, even if you have...

- Given credit to the copyright owner
- Refrained from monetizing the infringing content
- Charged for a copy of the content in question
- Noticed similar content that appear elsewhere on the internet
- Purchased the content including a hard or digital copy
- Recorded the content yourself from TV, a movie theater, or the radio
- Copied the content yourself from a textbook, a movie poster or photograph
- Stated that "no copyright infringement is intended"

Some content creators choose to make their work available for reuse with certain requirements. For more about this, you may wish to learn about the [Creative Commons license](#).

Can Google determine copyright ownership?

No. Google isn't able to mediate rights ownership disputes. When we receive a [complete and valid takedown notice](#), we remove the content as the law requires. When we receive a valid counter notification we forward it to the person who requested the removal. If there is still a dispute it's up to the parties involved to resolve the issue in court.

What is the difference between copyright and trademark? What about patents?

Copyright is just one form of intellectual property. It is not the same as trademark, which protects brand names, mottos, logos, and other source identifiers from being used by others for certain purposes. It is also different from patent law, which protects inventions.

What is the difference between copyright and privacy?

Just because you appear in a video, image or audio recording does not mean you own the copyright to it. For example, if your friend took a picture of you, she would own the copyright to the image that she took. If your friend, or someone else, uploaded a video, image or recording of you without your permission, and you feel it violates your privacy or safety, you may wish to [file a privacy complaint](#).

Copyright Infringement Notification Requirements

The easiest way to file a complaint is to use our [legal troubleshooter](#).

Copyright notifications must include the following elements. Without this information, we will be unable to take action on your request:

1. Your contact information

You'll need to provide information that will allow us to contact you regarding your complaint, such as an email address, physical address or telephone number.

2. A description of your work that you believe has been infringed

In your complaint, be sure to clearly and completely describe the copyrighted content you are seeking to protect. If multiple copyrighted works are covered in your complaint, the law allows a representative list of such works.

3. Each allegedly infringing URL

Your complaint must contain the specific URL of the content you believe infringes your rights, or we will be unable to locate it. General information about the location of the content is not adequate. Please include the URL(s) of the exact content at issue.

4. You must agree to and affirm both of the following statements:

- "I have a good faith belief that use of the copyrighted materials described above as allegedly infringing is not authorized by the copyright owner, its agent, or the law."
- And
- "The information in this notification is accurate and I swear, under penalty of perjury, that I am the copyright owner or am authorized to act on behalf of the owner of an exclusive right that is allegedly infringed."

5. Your signature

Complete complaints require the physical or electronic signature of the copyright owner or a representative authorized to act on their behalf. To satisfy this requirement, you may type your full legal name to act as your signature at the bottom of your complaint

Frequently Asked Copyright Questions

[I have permission to use this content. Why was it removed?](#)

[How do I get permission to use someone else's song, images or footage?](#)

[If I've already submitted a copyright complaint to Google, why do I have to provide all my information each time I have another request?](#)

[What are the consequences of copyright infringement?](#)

[I notified Google of a page that infringed my copyright and it was removed, but I just received an email saying it may be reinstated. What is happening?](#)

[I have permission to use this content. Why was it removed?](#)

If you have cleared the rights to use certain copyright-protected material on your page, you may want to alert the original content owner to avoid a mistaken removal. If your page was removed in error, you have the option of requesting a retraction from the claimant by contacting them directly or of submitting a counter notification.

Before you issue a counter notice, you may want to ask yourself a few questions to make sure it's a valid dispute:

- Are you the copyright owner of the work?
- Do you have permission to all third-party material used in the work from the appropriate copyright owner(s)?
- Should your use of any copyrighted material be considered a fair use, fair dealing or qualify for an exception under the applicable copyright law?

If one of the conditions above applies to your content, you may want to research the most appropriate dispute process or consult an attorney. If not, you may be in violation of copyright laws.

[How do I get permission to use someone else's song, images or footage?](#)

If you plan to include copyright-protected material in your work, you may need to seek permission to do so first. Google cannot grant you these rights and we are unable assist you in finding and contacting the parties who may be able to grant them to you. This is something you'll have to research and handle on your own or with the assistance of a lawyer.

[If I've already submitted a copyright complaint to Google, why do I have to provide all my information each time I have another request?](#)

In accordance with copyright law, we require complete copyright notifications for each removal request.

The easiest way to submit another complaint is to use our [online webform](#).

[What are the consequences of copyright infringement?](#)

For Google, the consequences of copyright infringement are simple. We comply with the [Digital Millennium Copyright Act \(DMCA\)](#). Under this law, we may, when properly notified, disable access to content that violates applicable copyright law.

If we receive a valid infringement notification identifying content associated with your work, it will be removed and you may receive a strike.

In addition, copyright owners may choose to sue for infringement. In the U.S., copyright infringement may result in statutory damages of up to \$150,000 per work infringed and, in some cases, criminal penalties.

[I notified Google of a page that infringed my copyright and it was removed, but I just received an email saying it may be reinstated. What is happening?](#)

We have likely received a [counter notification](#) regarding your removal request. In accordance with the law, the content will be reinstated unless you submit evidence that you've filed a court action against the user seeking to restrain the allegedly infringing activity. If we don't receive that notice from you within 10 days, we may reinstate the material to Google.