

COVID-19 Update: For everyone's safety, we've enabled our staff to work from home. Due to the evolving situation, there may be a delay in orders. Government agencies may also be delayed in processing filings. If you'd like to speak with us, we're available Mon-Fri 7 a.m.-5 p.m. PT and weekends from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. PT. Thanks for your understanding, and we'll continue to post updates.

Explained



by **Brette Sember, J.D.**
Freelance writer

Copyright is the legal ownership of a type of fixed creative work, such as a book, song, computer program, or architectural work. Protecting your copyright is essential so that no one can use it without your permission. Using the words "all rights reserved" can be part of your copyright protection strategy.



How to Get a Copyright

Becoming the owner of a copyright is simpler than you might imagine. The moment you create your work, you own the copyright—you don't have to register your copyright or give any kind of notice on the work itself.

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A common example of a copyright statement can be found on the back of the title pages in books, indicating the year the copyright was created, the name of the owner, and the rights that are held. Most people retain all rights to their copyright, but it is possible to reserve only some rights or, if you want the work to be completely in the [public domain](#), no rights at all. In the notice, you state what type of rights you are keeping by using the terms "all rights reserved" or "some rights reserved." The latter phrase allows others to use your work but only under the terms you provide, such as only if proper credit is given or only in specific situations, such as for educational purposes. It is up to you to define those terms.

An example of a copyright notice is "©2019 Mary Smith. All Rights Reserved." If your LLC owns the copyright, you would use the name of the LLC in the copyright statement, for example: ©2019 Happy People LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Creative Commons Licenses

A nonprofit organization called [Creative Commons](#) is seeking to reform copyright law and practices through its licensing system, where you can download licensing language that allows you to choose the type of reuse you want to permit, usually noncommercial uses, at no charge.

You can place the Creative Commons license on your work or upload your work to a platform, such as [Flickr](#), that has Creative Commons licensing options built in. If your work is in print or online, the organization also has language or code you can download to place on your work, indicating the type of license you are allowing.

To assist in enforcing all of the rights and to retain whatever rights you've selected, be sure to [register your copyright](#). You can do this on your own or with the [help of an attorney](#). Doing so will give you peace of mind and help protect your "all rights reserved" status.

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Copyright symbols are used on so many things that we see in our daily lives, that after a while, we may stop noticing them. Learn how to use the copyright symbol on your works, such as websites, books, and photographs.

[read more](#)



How to Avoid Copyright Infringement

Explain what types of original work a copyright covers. Mention copyright exemptions. Provide tips for avoiding copyright infringement. What legal action can a person take to protect a copyright?

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Understanding the Copyright Registration Process

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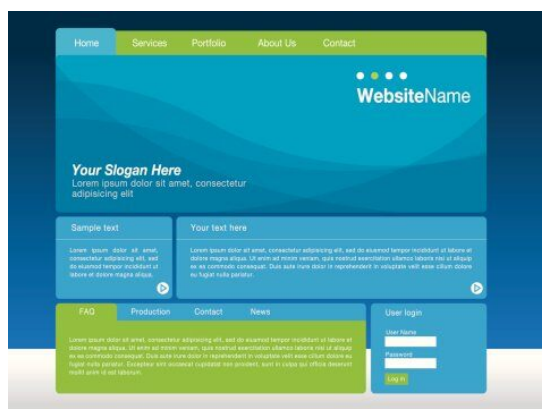
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Do I Need to Copyright My Website?

Many people never even consider copyrighting their websites, but if you don't, you may be unable to recover damages if someone copies your work. Find out what protections a copyright gives you and decide whether or not you should copyright your site.

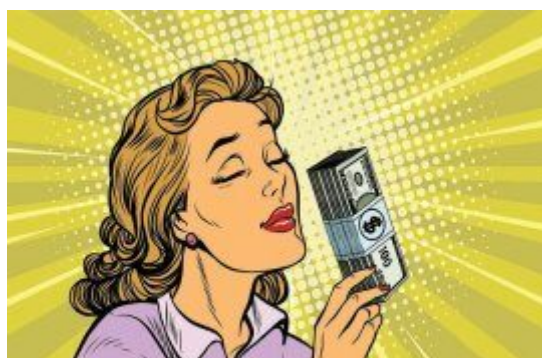
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How to Pay Yourself in an LLC

If your startup is an LLC, how should you pay yourself—as an employee or as a member? All the forms LLCs can take mean the answer is complicated.

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S Corp vs. LLC

Choosing between an S corp. or an LLC for your startup is all about how you pay your business taxes. The differences can save real money—and headaches.

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Can I Form an LLC While Employed or Working at Another Job?

Thinking about forming an LLC while employed at another job? Here are the things you need to consider.

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Reduce Self-Employment Taxes with a Corporation or LLC

If you're self-employed, you know that self-employment taxes take a big bite out of your income. Here's how you might be able to reduce those taxes by setting up a corporation or an LLC.

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