

Electronic Filing Available for Copyrights

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We now are able to file for copyright protection via a new online registration system at the U.S. Copyright Office referred to as electronic Copyright Office (eCO). The new filing system was instituted on July 1st and offers the following advantages: (1) low, \$35 filing fee; (2) faster processing time; (3) earlier effective date of registration; (4) online status tracking; (5) secure payment by credit or debit card, electronic check or deposit account; and (6) the opportunity to upload some categories of deposits.

Currently, eCO filing is available only for basic claims which include: (1) single works; (2) multiple unpublished works by the same author, and (3) multiple published works if all were first published in the same publication on the same date. The following types of registrations are *not* available in eCO: renewals, corrections, mask works, vessel hulls, groups of serial issues, groups of newspaper/newsletter issues, groups of database updates, and groups of contributions to periodicals.

An application may be filed and payment made through eCO even if a hard copy of your work is required by the Copyright Office. After completing the application and paying the fee, eCO allows for the creation and printing of a shipping slip attachment to a hard copy of your work for delivery to the Copyright Office via mail or courier. The shipping slip includes the correct mailing address and zip code for the class of work being registered.

The new eCO provides a faster and more efficient method of filing for copyright protection and is expected to be expanded in the future to include additional types of copyright works.

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