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Why You Should Register Your Copyright

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Among these advantages are the following:

1. Registration establishes a public record of the copyright claim.
2. You must register before an infringement suit may be filed in court.
3. If made before or within 5 years of publication, registration will establish prima facie evidence in court of the validity of the copyright and of the facts stated in the certificate.
4. If registration is made within 3 months after publication of the work or prior to an infringement of the work, statutory damages and attorney's fees will be available to the copyright owner in court actions. Otherwise, only an award of actual damages and profits is available to the copyright owner. As a practical matter, it is often very difficult to prove actual damages, thus statutory damages and attorneys fees are a very valuable benefit to registration.
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