

AI, COPYRIGHT & YOUR CREATIVE WORK: UNDERSTANDING THE LAW AND THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A QUICK GUIDE FOR SELF-EMPLOYED AND FREELANCE ARTISTS & CREATIVES

Copyright Basics

What does copyright protect?

Copyright protects the **expression** of ideas. Generally **does not protect** ideas, concepts, facts or artistic styles or a person's voice, appearance or likeness by itself.

Examples of protectable work:

Writing, music, drawings, paintings, photographs, choreography, films and sound recordings.

Do I need to register copyright?

No. In Singapore, protection **arises automatically** when a protectable work is created. Literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works: Generally lasts for the **author's entire life plus 70 years after their death**. As a self-employed artist or freelancer, you will generally own copyright in work you create, **including commissioned work**, unless you agree otherwise in writing.

What rights do I have as a copyright owner?

Depending on the type of work, copyright gives you **exclusive rights** over activities such as: **copying, publishing, performing, communicating, adapting the work**.

You can:

- **use** these rights yourself
- **license** someone else to use them while retaining ownership, or
- **transfer ownership** to someone else.

When is copyright infringed?

Infringement may occur when someone, **without permission**, does something that is reserved to the copyright owner and **no legal exception** applies. Copying a substantial part of the work may be considered to be infringement.

One exception is **fair use**:

Relevant factors include the purpose and nature of the use, nature of the work, amount and significance used and effect on the work's potential market or value.

What if my copyright is infringed?

You could first consider contacting the other party, negotiation or mediation, or **seek legal advice**. Court remedies can include an injunction to stop the infringement, damages (compensation), an account of profits and orders dealing with infringing copies.



Scan for more:
[**IPOS Copyright
Resources**](#)

AI, Generative AI and Agentic AI

- **AI** refers to computer systems, trained through machine learning to perform specific tasks.
- **Generative AI (Gen AI)** generates output, such as text, code, images, audio, or video, in response to the end-user's instructions or prompts.
- **Agentic AI** can autonomously plan, use tools or carry out tasks to achieve the end-user's goals.

Input/ Training Stage:

Large amounts of data, potentially including copyrighted works, may be used to train an AI model.



Output:

The AI model generates content for the end-user through Gen AI or agentic AI applications.

Different people may be involved:

AI developer	AI deployer	End-user
Builds, trains or substantially develops an AI system.	Puts AI system to use or makes it available for others to use.	Person who interacts with the AI system to do specific tasks.

Public Consultation on AI and the IP Regime

The **Ministry of Law and Intellectual Property Office of Singapore** are seeking views on how Singapore's IP laws can remain fit for purpose, trusted and responsive to emerging developments as AI continues to advance. The public consultation period is from **26 August 2026 to 22 October 2026**.

1 Can copyrighted work be used to train AI?



IPOS Explainer
Use of copyright
work for AI training

Potentially, yes. Singapore's Copyright Act has a **Computational Data Analysis (CDA) exception** that can permit copyrighted material which are **lawfully accessed** to be copied for training AI systems. Contractual terms attempting to exclude the CDA exception are void.

Example: A writer's publicly available online articles could be used by an AI developer in training AI systems.

Rights owners may use **paywalls** to control access. Other **non-legally binding tools** that can signal AI training preferences include robots.txt and AI opt-out protocols.

Key questions in the public consult:

- Is the scope of the CDA exception sufficiently clear?
- How should lawful access and rights-owner safeguards operate?
- How can the Government support non-legally binding technical measures in a practical and industry-led way?



What if AI produces content that infringes copyright?



IPOS Explainer

Treatment of AI-generated content that may infringe copyright

Responsibility for infringement could potentially involve the AI developer, deployer, end-user or another party, depending on what each person did and the circumstances.

Example: A designer asks an AI tool to “create a fantasy character”. The output unexpectedly resembles a well-known artist's copyrighted character.

Key questions in the public consult:

- How should existing legal principles apply to output infringement?
- How should responsibility be assessed among relevant persons?
- What technical measures may help minimise output infringement risks?



If I use AI, can my work still have copyright?



IPOS Explainer

Copyright and AI-generated content

Human authorship is required for copyright protection. The resulting work should reflect **sufficient engagement of the human intellect**. Your work must show intellectual effort, creativity, skill, or judgment. This is assessed based on the facts of each case.

Consider this: An artist iteratively prompts AI, selects and combines outputs and extensively redraws the final image and an artist who uses an image generated from a single prompt without further creative input. Which work reflects sufficient human creativity for copyright protection?

Key questions in the public consult:

- How should human contribution be understood, recognised and evidenced where Gen AI is used as a tool in creative and business workflows?



Submit Your Feedback

Access the public consultation paper and feedback channels [here](#).

Provide your feedback by 22 October 2026, 5 PM.



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