



Copyright

IP **TWENTYONE**

Intellectual Property Services
for the 21st Century

**HealthTech
Enterprise**

What is copyright?

UK Copyright protects **original**:

- Literary, artistic, dramatic and musical works
e.g. databases of information, instruction manuals, software coding
- Films, sound recordings and broadcasts
e.g. a podcast, an instruction video on how to use equipment
- Typographical arrangements in published editions
e.g. in a medical text book

Copyright is an automatic right, meaning the right exists as soon the work is in a fixed form i.e. not in an unrecorded idea. This means copyright is free.

A copyright owner has the exclusive right to certain acts including copying, showing, communicating or issuing copies of the work. There are exceptions to these however and it is best to consult an IP professional if you suspect infringement has occurred.

The first owner of Copyright is generally the creator. However as with other forms of IP, any copyright in the UK arising from an employee's work in the course of work duties generally belongs to their employer, unless otherwise agreed.

Written agreements should **always** be in place **before starting any collaborative work**. Agree who will own any potential IP, including copyright.

In general, copyright lasts for the lifetime of the author plus 70 years after their death. Copyright can also be licensed to third parties in return for royalties.

What is the process?

In the UK, there is no official registration process for copyright, unlike some countries such as the US.

Copyright can be very challenging to enforce, therefore it is highly recommended to keep good records in the development of your work.

First Steps?

If you want to talk through copyright potential for your innovation, contact us:

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Email: enquiries@healthtechenterprise.co.uk

Website: www.healthtechenterprise.co.uk

ip21 are one of our partner firms who are experts in IP law as patent and trade mark attorneys.

They will also be happy to help with any legal questions or general IP advice.

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