

General Information & Notes On Completion Of Notification Form

GENERAL INFORMATION

Copyright is a form of protection provided by law to creators of literary works, artistic works, cinematographic films, sound recordings, broadcasts and certain other intangible works, against the reproduction or other unauthorized dealing with the work. This protection is available to both published and unpublished works without need for registration or other such formality. However, owners may voluntarily give notice of their copyright to the Nigerian Copyright Commission or notice of any transfer of right thereof. Such notification will form part of the database of the Commission required to be kept under the Copyright Act, and has evidentiary value in proof of the possible date of creation of the work and other facts stated in the notification form. Authors and right owners of works created prior to the commencement of the notification scheme are advised to apply for notification in respect of such works.

Copyright does not protect ideas, concept, titles and slogans. The duration of copyright depends on the nature of the work concerned. Literary, Artistic and Musical works are generally protected for a period of 70 years after the death of the author. For photographs, sound recordings, cinematograph films and broadcasts, it is protected for 50 years after the year in which the work was made or published. Consequently, works not eligible for copyright or which have fallen into public domain may not be notified under the notification scheme.

GUIDE ON COMPLETION OF FORM

Name and Contact Information of Applicant:

All applicants must provide the name and address of the individual or company applying for this notification. This may or may not be the author or owner of the copyright in the work. Information should be precise and complete to enable the Commission correspond with or locate the applicant if necessary.

Status of Applicant

Application for notification may be made by author or his agent; or in appropriate cases, by a person who has acquired a right in the work. The status of the applicant has to be indicated succinctly.

Title of the work

The applicant is to give the title of the work. Where there is no title, the applicant is to state "untitled"

Year of creation

The applicant is to supply the year in which the author completed the work being sent to the Commission. A work is "created" when it is "fixed" in a tangible medium.

Category of the work

Indicate appropriately the category or categories that best describe your work. Please note that the description should apply to the work as it exists at the present time. It should not reflect what may be developed in the future. The following may be helpful to you in selecting the appropriate description:

• Literary

Describes works consisting of text. This includes books, poems, song lyrics (without music), tables, compilations of literary works, catalogues, reports and translations of such works. Computer programmes are also included in this category. It includes other literary works as provided in the Interpretation Section of the Copyright Act

• Musical

Describes any work of music or musical composition without words and includes any compilations thereof. Song lyrics without musical composition qualify only as Literary works.

• Artistic

Includes paintings, drawings, maps, charts, plans, photographs, Engravings, sculptures and works of artistic craftsmanship, architectural works and compilations of artistic works.

