

FAQs about the Sri Sathya Sai International Organization (SSSIO) Copyrights

Why do we copyright?

The purpose of protecting the copyright in any type of media created or commissioned for SSSIO in respect of its many global activities is to ensure that the intellectual property rights in such works are protected against the unlawful violation of such rights.

A violation may be for commercial purposes or otherwise, including not issuing take-down (DMCA) procedures, preventing a live broadcast of the SSSIO, or seeking enumerations not on behalf of the author.

The SSSIO does not seek any monetary gain by protecting the copyrights in such works, rather it seeks to protect the work from unfair and improper use.

What do we copyright?

The categories of works copyrighted broadly include literary, musical, audiovisual and sound recordings, on and offline graphic / digital imaging etc. and if there is a new recording of existing work with significant differences, the work will be copyrighted as well (for example, new takes on old bhajans will be copyrighted as well).

Once an original work is created, intellectual property rights like copyright are automatically created in it. It does not require registration as in the case of trademarks or patents. Hence, there is no searchable international registry of copyright-protected works. Proof of copyright may be in the first published use of the work.

Registration and documentation of Copyright

In order to better organize and centralize the intellectual property rights of the multiple works created for and in the name of the SSSIO in respect of its many global activities, and because copyright laws vary by country, the copyrights and like rights are held in the name of the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation for use by the SSSIO and its affiliates in accordance with the laws in California, United States of America.

What do I do to assist in this?

Sign an Assignment of Rights form ([form link](#)) in favor of the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation. The form explains the significance of the assignment and identifies the specific works that are covered by the Assignment. Read the assignment carefully.

How do I check if an audio-video recording is copyright-free?

Some questions you can answer about the recording:

For existing songs/bhajans:

- Did you make the record and produce the track or have permission from the composer/recording artist/label that made the recording?

For original compositions:

- Did you compose the music yourself?
- Did you write the lyrics yourself?
- Do you have written permissions from all copyright owners to use any samples contained in the track?

Additional thoughts:

- Do you have the signed consent of everyone participating in the recording? ([form link](#))
- Does the recording contain any music or excerpts from other copyright works or public domain?

- Does the recording contain beats, loops, sound effects or other audio that was downloaded from sample libraries or other public sources (ex. DAWs like GarageBand, Ableton, Logic, FL, etc.)?
- No other copyrights may be placed on the song by individuals involved in the recording process, the conflict will result in legal fees and possible suspension of organizational accounts on any platforms the material is hosted.

Questions can be directed to digitalmedia@sathyasai.org or the SSSIO Committee that organized the task.

How to make sure my recording is copyright free?

There is no guarantee a song does not already have copyright restrictions placed on the lyrics, melody, musical arrangement, etc. If you're recording a bhajan, upload a rough draft of the recording with some visual as a draft or unlisted video on any YouTube channel to see if there are any content ID matches. If no copyright claims appear on the video in the next 2-3 days or there is a copyright claim from *Interstreet Records (on behalf of SSSIO)*, you may proceed. This method isn't error-free as there is no international repository documenting copyrighted material but it is generally reliable.

May I broadcast the audio/videos used by the SSSIO?

All entities part of or affiliated to the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation – all Sri Sathya Sai Centers and study groups using media generated by the SSSIO for non-monetary gain may freely use the SSSWF's copyright material with clearly stated attribution in the description section of the upload/broadcast. If you have any questions please reach out to ip@sathyasai.org (check email id)

Why do I need to sign a form?

The SSSWF must document the rights in all works created or commissioned for its use and in its name or in the name of the SSSIO. As we utilize these recordings, we need to have signed consent from all parties involved in the collaboration so as to ensure there are no future misunderstandings as to the copyrights in such work.