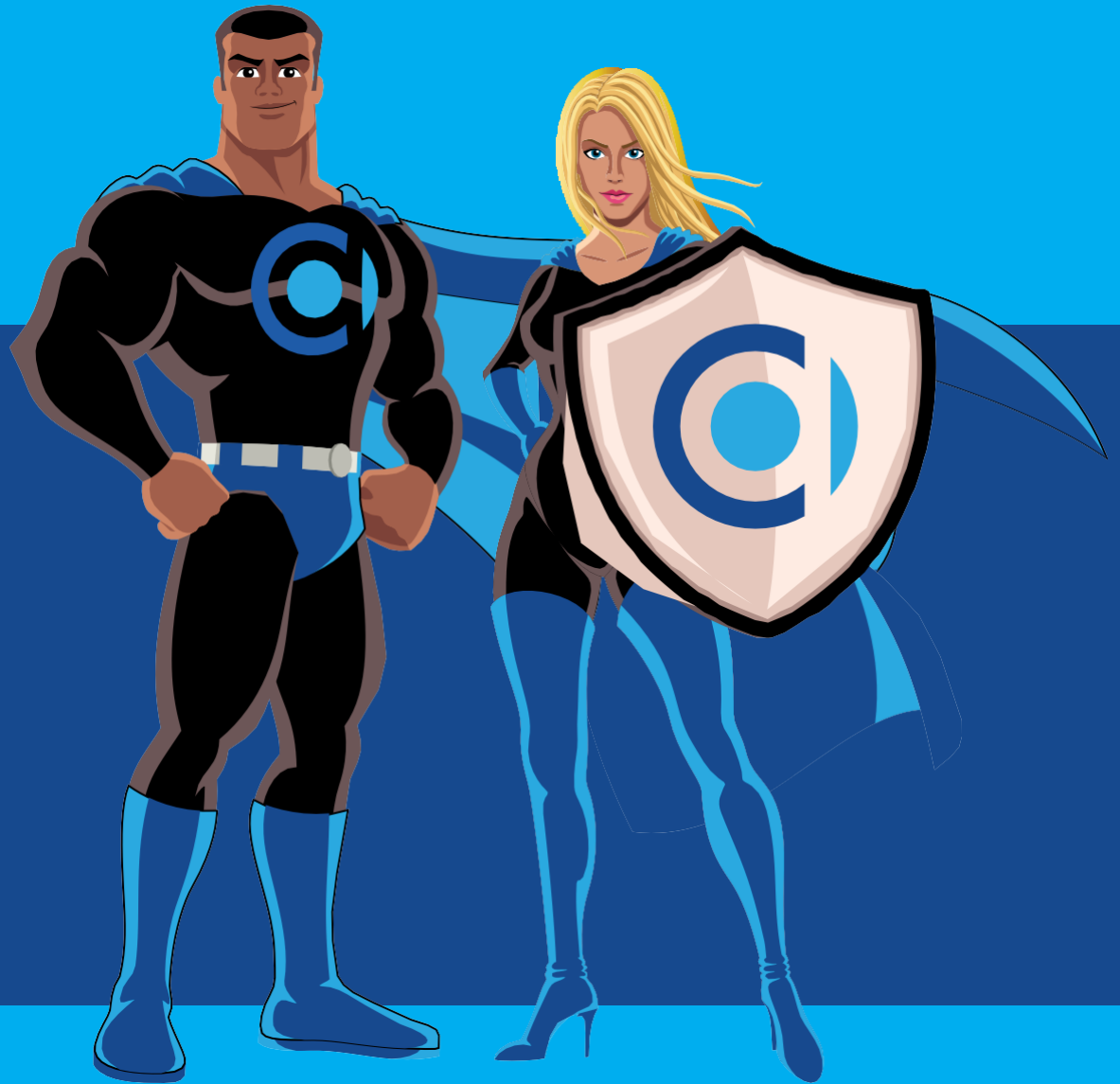
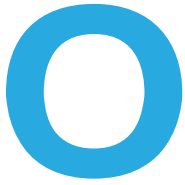




copyright alliance



Small Claims Opt-Out Protection (SCOOP) Program



On June 16, 2022, the U.S. Copyright Office launched its new copyright small claims tribunal called the [Copyright Claims Board](#). The CCB is a voluntary, affordable, and streamlined alternative to federal court for certain small copyright claims.

To ensure the CCB is constitutional, [participation before the CCB must be voluntary](#). As a result, respondents have the right to opt-out of proceedings brought against them.

For claims to be heard by the CCB, claimant(s) must pay a \$100 filing fee. In light of the voluntary nature of the process, and to make it more affordable for claimants, the Copyright Office adopted a two-tiered fee structure so that a claimant would not lose the entire \$100 filing fee if the respondent opts out of the proceeding. Under this two-tiered structure, a claimant is required to pay an initial \$40 filing fee when the claim(s) are filed with the CCB, and the remaining \$60 filing fee would only be due after the opt-out period is over and the case becomes active.

While the CCB's filing fee is hundreds of dollars less than in federal court, the Copyright Alliance recognizes that the loss of the non-refundable \$40 fee if a respondent opts out of the proceeding is not without consequence to individual creators and small businesses. To help counter this potential loss, the Copyright Alliance created the Small Claims Opt-Out Protection (SCOOP) Program, through which claimants can have their \$40 initial filing fee reimbursed by the Copyright Alliance if their claims are dismissed due to respondents opting out.

HOW THE COPYRIGHT ALLIANCE'S SCOOP PROGRAM WORKS

The Copyright Alliance will issue a \$40 check to reimburse an applicant's initial filing fee if the following occur:

- Before filing a case with the CCB, the applicant (i) was a member of the Copyright Alliance (membership is free; fill out our [Join the Alliance Form](#) to become a member) and/or (ii) watched the Copyright Alliance's [Learn About the Copyright Claims Board video](#);
- The applicant files a case which is dismissed by the CCB because the respondent(s) in the case opted out;
- After the case is dismissed by the CCB due to a respondent opting out, the applicant becomes a member of the Copyright Alliance (if they are not already a member) and then completes and submits the SCOOP Application; and
- After reviewing the application and the case, the Copyright Alliance approves the application.

The Copyright Alliance will not issue a reimbursement check if any of these do not occur. If the Copyright Alliance does not approve the application, the Copyright Alliance will provide the applicant with a reason for the denial.

The SCOOP Program will run from August 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023. The Copyright Alliance may extend or reduce the duration of the program as it deems necessary due to factors such as program participation or funding limitations. Applicants can check out the SCOOP Program's terms and conditions page to learn more about program requirements and criteria.

CRITERIA USED TO EVALUATE APPLICATIONS

The following factors may result in a denial of an application:

- the applicant filed the claim(s) with a co-claimant(s);
- the applicant does not reside in the United States;
- the information provided in the application creates an actual or potential conflict of interest for the Copyright Alliance;
- the applicant was reimbursed three times through the SCOOP Program;
- the applicant was not a member of the Copyright Alliance when they filed their case with the CCB and did not watch the video before filing;
- the applicant did not comply with SCOOP Program requirements; or
- other factors as determined by the Copyright Alliance.

MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the SCOOP Program or the SCOOP Program Application, you can contact us at scoop@copyrightalliance.org or call us at 1-888-5403-CCB.

For more information about the CCB, check out our [Copyright Claims Board Explained webpage](#) which contains FAQs, video webinars, and other informational resources about the CCB. To participate in the program and to access exclusive, members-only materials and programs, you can [sign up](#) for free to be a Copyright Alliance creator member today!



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