

## Anthropic Settlement Q&A

The following FAQs are based on the Q&A chat from the Authors Guild's October 16, 2025 webinar Anthropic Settlement: What Authors Should Know.

For more information from the claims administrator, visit [www.anthropiccopyrightsettlement.com](http://www.anthropiccopyrightsettlement.com).

More info from the Authors Guild is available here: [Bartz v. Anthropic Settlement: What Authors Need to Know](#).

## Eligibility & The Works List

- **Why are some of my books not on the settlement list, even if they were on other pirate lists like the one from The Atlantic?**

The settlement only includes books that Anthropic downloaded from pirate sites in 2021 and 2022. The list in The Atlantic was compiled later, in March 2025, and is different. A book might also be excluded if it didn't have a U.S. copyright registration at the time or lacked an ISBN/ASIN.

- **Can I be part of the settlement if my book was published in Open Access format?**

Yes, as long as your work meets the other class criteria and is on the Works List.

- **Are academic journal articles or audiobooks included in the settlement?**

No, the settlement is only for books.

- **Are authors and publishers from outside the U.S. eligible?**

Yes, as long as their books meet the class criteria, including having been registered with the U.S. Copyright Office.

- **What if I find out my publisher was supposed to register my copyright but didn't, causing my book to be excluded?**

You should inform your publisher that they may owe you your share of the settlement (\$1,500) if they were contractually obligated to register the copyright and failed to do so.

- **Does having a copyright symbol (©) or an ISBN in my book mean it was officially registered?**

No. Registration is a formal process with the U.S. Copyright Office. You must have an official registration to be eligible.

- **Can I register my copyright now and join the settlement?**

No. The work had to be registered either before the infringement occurred in 2021 or within three months of its publication.

- **What if a non-author, like an audiobook narrator, is listed as an 'author' for my work?**

This is likely an error from merging data lists. They are not entitled to any part of the settlement.

## Filing the Claim

- **If I have multiple books on the list, do I need to file a separate claim for each one?**

No, you can and should add all of your eligible works to a single claim form.

- **I submitted my information to an earlier form from the lawyers. Do I need to file again?**

Yes. The earlier form was only for collecting information. You must file an official claim at [www.anthropiccopyrightsettlement.com](http://www.anthropiccopyrightsettlement.com) to be included in the settlement.

- **How do I get a 'Unique ID' to file my claim?**

A Unique ID will be sent to you by mail or email in late November 2025. However, you do not need to wait for it. You can file your claim now by selecting the option 'I don't have a Unique ID.' Your claim will be processed the same.

- **Is there a penalty for making a mistake on the claim form?**

Mistakes are fine, but the form must be filed truthfully under penalty of perjury. To fix an error, contact the Settlement Administrator at [info@AnthropicCopyrightSettlement.com](mailto:info@AnthropicCopyrightSettlement.com).

- **The lookup tool on the website isn't working or showing my books.**

The site can experience glitches due to heavy traffic. It is also recommended to try accessing it from a computer rather than a phone or tablet. If you're continually having issues, then please email [info@AnthropicCopyrightSettlement.com](mailto:info@AnthropicCopyrightSettlement.com).

- **Do I need a lawyer or my agent to file for me?**

No. You can file the claim yourself. If you have already filed, do not let an agent file a duplicate claim on your behalf. The settlement payment is intended for the author and publisher.

## Publishers & Rights Splits

- **What is the difference between a 'legal owner' and a 'beneficial owner'?**

When you sign a publishing contract granting exclusive rights, the publisher becomes the 'legal owner.' As the author entitled to royalties, you remain the 'beneficial owner.' If you are self-published or your rights have reverted, you are the sole owner.

- **How is the settlement money split between the author and the publisher?**

The default split is 50/50 between the publisher (legal owner) and the author (beneficial owner). This is based on standard infringement clauses in publishing contracts. If your contract specifies a different split for infringement recoveries, you can select that option.

- **What if my rights have reverted back to me from the publisher? Do I still have to split the money?**

No. If your rights were fully reverted to you before the infringement occurred, you are the sole owner and are entitled to 100% of the award for that book. This also applies if your publisher went out of business and the rights returned to you.

- **What if my rights reverted, but I then sold them to a new publisher?**

The publisher who held the exclusive rights at the time of the infringement (2021–2022) is the one entitled to the publisher's share. If you held the rights during this time frame then you should claim a sole owner.

- **I'm self-published through a service like CreateSpace. Do they get a share?**

No. Services like CreateSpace are printers or distributors, not publishers who hold your rights. You should claim as the sole owner and receive 100%.

- **My publisher is a hybrid press. Are they entitled to a share?**

You must check your contract. If you granted them exclusive publication rights that are still active, they can claim the publisher's share. However, some hybrid publishers (like She Writes Press) have stated they are not taking a share.

## **Co-Authors, Estates & Heirs**

- **How do co-authors file a claim?**

Each co-author must file their own separate claim for the shared work.

- **How is the author's share split between co-authors?**

You will split the author's 50% share of the award. For example, if you have one co-author and a 50/50 royalty split, you would each be entitled to 25% of the total award for that book.

- **What happens if one co-author files a claim but the other doesn't?**

The co-author who files a claim may receive the entire author's share.

- **How do I file a claim for an author who is deceased?**

The heir or administrator of the author's estate should file the claim. There is an option on the form to file on behalf of an estate or if there is no estate an heir can choose "other" on the claim form.

- **My late husband and I were co-authors. How do I file?**

You would file two separate claims for the same book: one as yourself (for your share) and one as the administrator of his estate (for his share).

## **The Settlement Award**

- **How much is the settlement payment per book?**

The estimated payment is approximately \$3,000 per book. This number is before court-approved attorneys' fees and administrative costs are deducted. The final amount will be the total fund divided by the number of claimed works.

- **Is the ~\$3,000 award split between the author and publisher, or does each get that amount?**

The ~\$3,000 is the total award per book, which is then split between the author and publisher (typically 50/50).

- **When will payments be sent out?**

Payments are expected to be sent in late summer 2026 at the earliest, but it could be later.

- **What rights are we giving up by joining the settlement?**

You are giving up the right to sue Anthropic for its past infringement related to the training of its AI models with the books on the Works List. You are not releasing any claims based on the future output of AI models.

## **Additional Clarifications**

- **Can the online claim form be saved while filling it out?**

No. The claim form cannot be saved mid-progress. It times out after a period of inactivity, so have all your information ready before you begin.

- **Is there a way to bulk upload multiple works or use a spreadsheet?**

Yes. You can add all eligible works on a single claim form. If you have a large number of titles, you can request a bulk upload spreadsheet by emailing [info@AnthropicCopyrightSettlement.com](mailto:info@AnthropicCopyrightSettlement.com).

- **Can I use a pen name, company name, or loan-out when filing my claim?**

Yes. You should list your legal name as the claimant, but you can note any pen names, DBAs, or loan-out companies associated with your registered works. The claim form allows you to clarify this.

- **How can I confirm that my claim was successfully received?**

You can contact the Settlement Administrator at [info@AnthropicCopyrightSettlement.com](mailto:info@AnthropicCopyrightSettlement.com) to verify receipt.

- **Do I need to register my copyright in the U.S. specifically, or does registration in another country qualify?**

Only U.S. Copyright Office registrations qualify for this settlement. Registration in another country does not meet the class definition.

- **How can I find my copyright registration number?**

You can search for your registration number using the U.S. Copyright Office's online catalog at <https://publicrecords.copyright.gov/>. You can also look up this information in the Works List Lookup tool on the Settlement Website.

Works List Lookup tool:

[https://secure.anthropiccopyrightsettlement.com/lookup/?\\_gl=1myxffp\\_gcl\\_auMTY0NzIxMDI4MS4xNzU5MzcyMjg0](https://secure.anthropiccopyrightsettlement.com/lookup/?_gl=1myxffp_gcl_auMTY0NzIxMDI4MS4xNzU5MzcyMjg0)

- **My book appeared in the Works List earlier but disappeared later. What does that mean?**

Temporary display issues or database updates can cause titles to appear or disappear. Refresh the page and it should appear.

- **What is the 'Alternative Option' on the claim form for?**

The 'Alternative Option' allows you to specify a different royalty or infringement split from the 50/50 default if your publishing contract provides one. This is the option textbook/education authors must choose since the default is not available. Other authors can also choose this over the default (or sole owner option) if they believe they should be entitled to a different split based on the contract.

- **What if my publisher opts out of the settlement?**

The publisher's opt-out does not affect your eligibility. You can still file your own claim for your share of the settlement, and possibly the entire amount. At least one rights holder has to file a claim for the award to trigger, so be sure to file yours.

- **My publisher is in bankruptcy. Should I still split 50/50?**

It depends. If your publisher is bankrupt or no longer functioning and rights have reverted to you, you should claim 100% ownership. But if the bankruptcy is still ongoing, the

publisher may be entitled to their share, especially if the bankruptcy involves reorganization as opposed to liquidation.

- **What happens if a co-author dies or there are multiple heirs to an estate?**

If one co-author or heir has passed away, their estate or heirs can still file a claim for their portion. Each heir or representative may submit a claim for their share of the rights. The living co-author will share the settlement award with the deceased co-author's heirs.

- **How much will attorney fees and administrative costs reduce the payment?**

Payments are unlikely to be reduced and the approximately \$3,000 per work amount accounts for the fees and costs. At the conclusion of the settlement the judge will decide the amount of attorney fees.

- **Who pays the legal fees?**

All legal fees and administrative costs are paid from the \$1.5 billion settlement fund before class member payments are distributed.

- **Can I object to or opt out of the settlement?**

Yes. You may object if you disagree with the terms, or opt out entirely to preserve your right to sue independently. If you object but do not opt out, you remain bound by the settlement if approved but do not get the financial award.

- **If I am based outside the U.S., will I receive payment differently?**

Yes. Claimants outside the U.S. can receive payment by international check or wire transfer. You'll select your preferred method when filing.

- **If I use a pen name, which name should appear on the payment?**

Payments will be issued to the claimant listed on the claim form. You can use your pen name, as long as you have a way to deposit the funds into your account using the pen name.

- **Will my payment be taxable even if I'm not a U.S. citizen?**

Non-U.S. claimants may be subject to withholding tax depending on applicable treaties.