



## Cartoons

Cartoons are by nature graphic works and are accordingly afforded copyright protection as artistic works. The only factor which is particularly unusual is the way in which they are produced. Often cartoons are created as part of employment for a newspaper or magazine, and as a result the copyright is owned by the employer.

The creator of a cartoon retains the copyright and is therefore in a position to licence reproduction, syndication, and so on, as with any other artistic work.

One should bear in mind that successful and popular cartoons can often be exploited through merchandise or television animation, and when submitting cartoons on an assignment basis you should always reserve the rights to this type of exploitation to be licensed separately for additional fees.

Note that the copyright in most of the popular cartoon characters such as Bugs Bunny and Mickey Mouse, is owned by the studio producing the cartoons, and requests for use should be directed to them.

The content of this fact sheet is of benefit interest only and is not an exhaustive explanation of copyright protection and remedies for infringement. This fact sheet is not intended to apply to specific circumstances. The contents of this fact sheet should not therefore be regarded as constituting legal or other advice and should not be relied upon as such. In relation to any particular problem that you may have, you are advised to seek specific and specialist advice.