The Songwriter's Copyright Registration Checklist

Protect your songs like the hits they're destined to be!

- **STEP 1: Know What You're Protecting**
  Musical Composition (lyrics + melody), Sound Recording (the recording), or both. If you wrote and recorded it yourself, register both under one form!

- **STEP 2: Gather Your Info**
  Titles, artist name, authors, year, MP3/WAV files, lyric sheets. Label files clearly — "SongTitle_YourName_2025.mp3".

- **STEP 3: U.S. Registration**

Visit copyright.gov/registration.
Create an eCO account, upload your song, and pay:
$45 (single) or $65 (standard/group).

* Save money with "Group Registration for Unpublished Works."

- **STEP 4: Canadian Songwriters**

Go to CIPO online (~CAD $50).

* SOCAN = royalties; CIPO = copyright protection.

- **STEP 5: European Creators**

Copyright is automatic. For proof, use time stamping or deposit services. Register with local PROs like PRS, SACEM, or GEMA.

- **STEP 6: Keep Records Organized**
  Store certificates, lyric sheets, receipts, backups. Keep a "Copyright Portfolio" per album.

- **STEP 7: Avoid "Instant Protection" Traps**

Only government registration (like the U.S. Copyright Office) holds up in court. Do it yourself — cheaper, official, and empowering.

- **STEP 8: Celebrate!**

You did it! You own your songs — officially.

* Celebrate your creative rights and get back to writing your next hit!