

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Copyright Protection
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 5:49:41 PM

Hi, my name is Laurie Cook and I am a freelance artist living in Simi Valley, California. I illustrate children's books, greeting cards, gift bags, and home decor items, as well as create toy and product ideas. A lot of my clients demand the right to license my art on an exclusive basis; they don't want to see a similar product on the market with my images because it will cut into their sales.

In 2008 I was very pleased to land a good exclusive contract with a respected company (and they are becoming fewer and fewer!) to use my work on gift bags and boxes. But within a few weeks they contacted me to say they had found my images on a competitor's product. This made ME look unethical and risked losing me the contract (plus future sales). It took a while to track down the company that had used my art without permission. In fact, they had been selling products using several pieces of my art. It's my understanding that this is not the first time this company has done this, and I am currently having a very hard time trying to get any settlement from them; they are not cooperating in revealing the extent of their sales. Thank heaven I was able to retain the original contract I had made.

I sincerely hope my rights can be better protected.
Thank you,

Laurie Cook
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