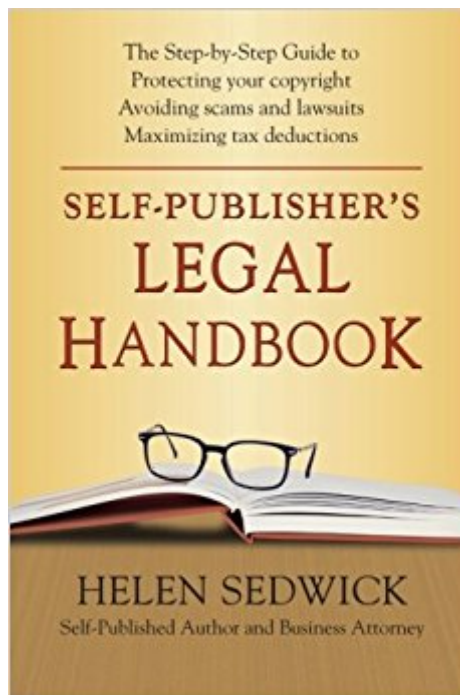




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# **Self-Publisher's Legal Handbook: The Step-by-Step Guide To The Legal Issues Of Self-Publishing**



## Synopsis

A NEW, EXPANDED AND UPDATED EDITION OF THIS BOOK IS NOW AVAILABLE AT [https://www.amazon.com/Self-Publishers-Legal-Handbook-Updated-Protecting/dp/0988302195/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=Self-Publisher&os=Legal Handbook](https://www.amazon.com/Self-Publishers-Legal-Handbook-Updated-Protecting/dp/0988302195/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=Self-Publisher&os=Legal Handbook) is the first step-by-step guide to the legal issues of self-publishing. Attorney and self-published author Helen Sedwick uses 30 years of legal experience to show writers how to stay out of court and at their desks. Topics include:

- \* Business set-up. From DBAs to sales taxes to crowd-funding,
- \* Self-Publisher's Legal Handbook walks writers through the process of setting up their self-publishing ventures.
- \* Moving from Manuscript to Book.
- \* Self-Publisher's Legal Handbook compares the options of engaging a self-publishing service company to doing it yourself using a print-on-demand provider. It lists which contract provisions are acceptable and which are not. It explains the mechanics of hiring designers, editors, and other freelancers.
- \* Intellectual Property Issues. Copyrights, trademark, fair use, and public domain are explained in practical, useful terms, including how to find copyright holders and ask permission.
- \* Self-Publisher's Legal Handbook provide tips on licensing images and music for little or no money.
- \* Internet Regulations. Any writer with a blog needs to know about privacy policies, SPAM, COPPA, and DMCA.
- \* Self-Publisher's Legal Handbook explains these regulations in easy-to-understand language.
- \* Spotting Scams. Writers are e-blasted by businesses promoting overpriced services, if not outright frauds.
- \* Self-Publisher's Legal Handbook shows writers how to spot aggressive sales techniques and scams.
- \* The Scary Stuff.
- \* Self-Publisher's Legal Handbook provides guidance on avoiding the dangers of defamation, invasion of privacy, and infringement.

Writing and publishing a book is a significant investment. Writers should not be losing money (and sleep) by hiring the wrong self-publishing company or getting sued for copyright infringement. Self-Publisher's Legal Handbook will help writers safely navigate the legal minefield.

University of Chicago Law School graduate and California attorney, Sedwick has represented small businesses and entrepreneurs for 30 years. Her historical novel Coyote Winds earned five-star reviews from ForeWord Reviews and Compulsion Reads and is an IndieBRAG Medallion Honoree.

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## Customer Reviews

"Absolutely required reading for every author who wants to publish their own works. This book will give you expert guidance to safely control your work, avoid lawsuits and scams, while maximizing tax deductions. It should be on every self-publisher's desk--highly recommended." -Joel Friedlander, TheBookDesigner.com "Self-publishing writers already wear so many hats; who has time to be a lawyer in addition to social media expert and marketing pro? Sedwick's book answers all types of questions, including those writers wouldn't think to ask." -Arlene Miller, M.A., The Grammar Diva "This vital resource for every self-publisher clearly outlines the legal issues authors need to know.... Well-written and authoritative yet unhampered by legalese.... Outstanding. This is a book that is likely to help any self-publisher avoid many headaches." -ForeWord 5-Star Review "Should be on every author's shelf.... Sedwick simplifies the scary and presents ways to avoid ending up in a costly legal battle. Her goal is to help you avoid wasting money and time on things that could have been avoided in the first place.... Don't hesitate; get your copy now." -Self-Publishing Review

When I self-published my historical novel, Coyote Winds, I discovered there was no legal guide to help self-publishing writers deal with the wide-ranging and complicated issues of publishing, including copyright, defamation, and taxes. At conferences, writers cornered me to ask important and worrisome questions. I wanted to answer those questions and more. I wrote the Self-Publisher Legal Handbook to help writers publish and promote their work while minimizing legal risks and errors. For instance, many writers are surprised to find out that they are starting a small business. They have questions about incorporation and crowd-funding, not to mention hiring freelancers and deducting expenses. Or they are considering purchasing a publishing package from a self-publishing

service company and wonder how to distinguish between an honest company and an unscrupulous one. They worry about losing their copyrights. Many suffer from what I call contract anxiety. When they try to read a contract, the page looks like 5,000 words run through a blender. And what about author platforms? How do writers write blog posts that are provocative but not defamatory? How do they find eye-catching images without spending a fortune? They wonder if their websites need privacy policies, and what do DMCA, COPPA, and DRM mean anyway? ã ã Dozens of books and websites offer advice on designing covers, editing content, and tweeting effectively, but few will tell writers how to protect their Social Security Numbers or spot a scam. ã ã But there is also a personal reason I wrote the Handbook. My parents were artistic people; my mother an actress and my father a stage and television director. By temperament or choice, they did not understand business or money. When I was young, I saw them being taken advantage of over and over again. I went to law school so I would have the tools to navigate the business world myself and to help creative people like my parents. Writing and publishing a book is a significant investment in time, money and emotion. ã ã It is tough enough to make money in a business where fewer than five percent of books sell over 1,000 copies. ã ã Writers should not lose money (or sleep) by hiring the wrong self-publishing service company or getting sued for copyright infringement. ã ã Many chapters in the book will also help a traditionally published writer who is blogging, tweeting, and creating content for Internet distribution. ã ã

Practical legal information for independent authors. Details you need to know to keep yourself street legal while cruising down the indie publishing highway. A sound resource.

Sure, you might be able to find a lot of this information on the web. However, it would take endless days to sort out the truth from fiction ã ã and to organize it in such an effective manner as Helen does in her book. For a book which includes ã ã “Legal Handbook ã ã in its title, this is really an easy read. Helen uses clear language and concepts, simple and direct illustrations, and she also indicates where those of us considering self-publishing need to do our homework. This may be the first non-fiction book I ever read in one sitting. But there are about fifty dog-eared pages I will be referring to often!

I appreciate this book. Sometimes self-publishing seem to be a lonely journey and you are looking for that guiding light. This book is my guiding light. I didn't know what I needed to know. Now I know what to do for my next book project. Awesome resource. I am going to buy the print version because I

will need it for reference.

The information was a great deal to mentally digest. I was hoping the book would provide forms so the reader could follow along and fill them out. The author did provide the link to the forms available through government websites.

Whether you're a first-time author and plan to write as a business or just want to self-publish one book as a hobby, this is THE best guide for all things legal when it comes to self-publishing. The fact that the author is also an attorney gives the reader piece of mind that the information is accurate and can be trusted. The book is written in easy-to-understand language so the reader doesn't have to sift through legalese. Be prepared though. There is a lot of detailed information included on many topics so I suggest keeping it handy because you will want to refer to it often. It's become my go-to book for everything legal relating to self-publishing.

I'm a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) and a self-published author, so when I got Helen's book I went straight to the chapter on taxes to see if she had her facts right. I'm happy to report, she got it right! She explained the hobby rules correctly (lots of people get it wrong) and my CPA heart was singing! So I trusted Helen to be accurate in other areas that are her specialty (law). I really liked the Addendum on Key Contract Provisions. It was like having a lawyer sit down by my side and cover every line of the contract explaining in clear English what it meant. Then she follows it with an example of an egregious contract and shows us where it contains "zingers" that will hurt the author. Sadly, I have a few author clients that could have benefited from those pages. Excellent, easy to understand advice. Highly recommended.

Wow, great read. My head is spinning from all the important information, especially since I'm a novice. Rereading, underlining and taking notes. She really connects to the reader. Thank you Helen Sedwick!

This is a useful book for authors. It can be a bit sleep inducing at times, but that is the nature of anything "legal". If you have written, or are in the process, this book will clear up all of those "fuzzy" questions.

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