

Te pōkai i te ture:

Me mōhio ki tōu e whakaaetia ana

Navigate the law:

Know what you are signing up for

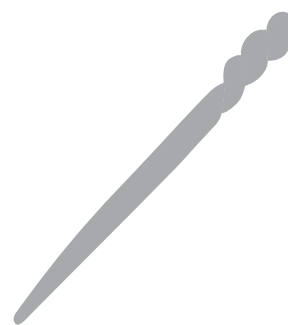
Ko te ture, ko te manatārua hei apa māu.

Understanding the law and copyright to serve your needs.

A contract is also known as an “agreement”, it outlines the terms and conditions that both parties agree to and sign. A standard form agreement means that no terms or conditions have changed. Changes can be made if you discuss the terms and both parties agree. Contracts protect you from disputes and are legally binding. If you need a contract, a helpful starting point can be looking at templates for contracts and agreements that have worked for other artists and arts practitioners. However, every situation is different. Check the terms in a template carefully before using them to make sure they apply to you. It is a good idea to ask a lawyer to look at a contract before you sign it.

Watch the video with artist Jamie McCaskill to hear his experiences with contracts.

[📺 Me mōhio ki tōu e whakaaetia ana | Know what you are signing up for](#)



Ngā kirimana

Contracts for artists and art practitioners

Actor individual performance agreements

View the Screen Production and Development Association (SPADA) and New Zealand Actors’ Equity Individual Performance Agreement (Equity New Zealand review copy).

[📄 Individual Performance Agreement \(PDF 861 KB\)](#)

Occupational vs Enterprise Collective Contracts

View this outline of the two collective contracts that apply to performing artists and arts practitioners in the screen industry – occupational vs enterprise collective contracts.

[📄 Negotiating New Screen Contracts for Performers | Equity New Zealand](#)

Dealers and galleries

Read tips by Tim Melville for forming relationships with dealers and galleries. Always seek advice before signing a contract and make sure you are OK with the terms.

[Dealing with Dealers: some do's and don'ts \(PDF 94.29 KB\)](#)

Music industry contract templates

Register on the Music Managers Forum Aotearoa to access music industry contract templates.

[Music Managers Forum Aotearoa](#)

Music performance agreements

Signing a contract for performances at private functions or festivals offers protection by clearly outlining the expectations of the provider and the client.

- Download a basic performance agreement template.
[Basic Performance agreement Template | New Zealand Music Commission](#)

Music licensing and promotion

Recorded Music NZ supports recording artists and right holders in Aotearoa through licensing and promotion.

[Music Makers | Recorded Music NZ](#)

Writers' rights

The New Zealand Society of Authors (NZSA) offers contract support for members. Find out how to join the NZSA.

[Writers Rights | New Zealand Society of Authors](#)

Playmarket supports all script writers who are members with performance rights.

[Performance Rights | Playmarket](#)

The New Zealand Writers Guild (NZWG) provides model agreements and contract materials for screen writers – these are available free of charge to members.

[NZWG Model Contracts | New Zealand Writers Guild](#)

Visual Arts Licence

Find out how Copyright Licensing New Zealand supports artists and arts practitioners whose work is being licensed or re-sold by managing this process and collecting the royalties on their behalf.

[Search results for visual+arts+licence | Copyright Licensing New Zealand](#)



Ngā meka matua mō ngā kirimana

What you need to know about contracts

What to look for in contracts

View this Employment New Zealand resource to find out about your rights and responsibilities, and what to look out for in contracts.

[What to watch out for in contracts | Employment New Zealand](#)

Read the fine print

Read the fine print of a contract before you sign. You can ask for clarification about anything that is uncertain. View this Fair Trading Act fact sheet from the Commerce Commission New Zealand.

[Fine print \(PDF 845 KB\)](#)

Before you agree to a contract

Before you sign on the dotted line, view this resource from Consumer Protection New Zealand.

[Contracts and Sales Agreements | Consumer Protection New Zealand](#)

Best practice for artists and arts practitioners

Read this overview of contracts for artists and arts performers.

[Best Practice | Arts Makers Aotearoa](#)



Rapu āwhina | Seek advice

It's important to ask for expert legal help when it comes to writing or signing a contract. Good places to start include:

- The Law Society. To find a lawyer, use Get legal help under Quick help and choose Employment or Intellectual Property depending on your contract needs.
 - [New Zealand Law Society](#)
- Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) can help you know what your legal rights and obligations are.
 - <https://www.cab.org.nz/search/legal/advice>

Other legal services to help you

Community Law Services

Free legal help is available from Community Law New Zealand throughout Aotearoa.

[Our Law Centres | Community Law New Zealand](#)

Auckland Disability Law

Check out the free legal services Auckland Disability Law offers people with disabilities.

[Auckland Disability Law](#)

Private providers

There are services available from private providers who specialise in supporting arts and arts practitioners but you do need to pay for these services. For example:

- ☑ [Creative Legal Services](#)

He aha kei tua | What's next?

Develop your own next steps and collaborate with others to continue to grow your career. Consider what is on top for you, and who you can go to for support in the following areas:

- **Types of contracts**
- **Things to be aware of when signing a contract**