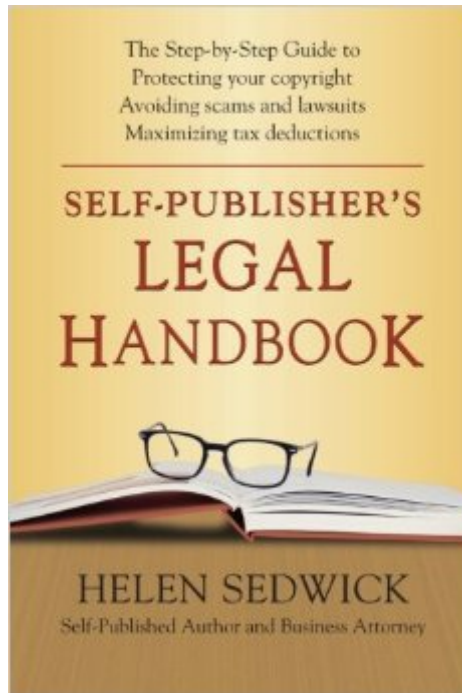


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# Self-Publisher's Legal Handbook: The Step-by-Step Guide To The Legal Issues Of Self-Publishing



## Synopsis

Self-Publisher's 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

Full disclosure: I received a copy of this book in return for a review. In this book, attorney Helen Sedwick discusses the many and various legal issues that may confront a self-publishing author. These issues include claiming tax deductions for your expenses, dealing with freelancers such as editors and cover designers, protecting the rights to your work and avoiding infringing on the rights of others, understanding the contracts you will have to sign with resellers and other services, and much more. The long list of things to do and things to watch out for is daunting. As Sedwick says at one point, "Bottom line: nothing is simple." But in addition to presenting this list of do-this's and don't-do-that's, this book is a good, clearly-written guide for navigating through that list. To give just one example of the legal pitfalls that are out there, did you know that if you announce that you'll give a free copy of your book to a randomly selected person who has "liked" your Facebook page or subscribed to your newsletter, you may be running an illegal lottery? In addition to legal advice, Sedwick also presents some commonsense practical guidance about how to watch out for your best interests in a world full of scammers and aggressive marketers. I particularly liked this bit about companies that force you to talk to a phone representative in order to get basic information: "you should not be forced to endure a sales talk just to get the basics. These guys are pros at separating you from your money. Call to ask questions, but if they launch into a sales pitch, warn them you will hang up if they don't stop immediately." Another interesting non-legal item in the book is a table that converts sales ranking to (estimated) book sales per day.

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