**How to find out if your images have been stolen**

If you’ve created original art for your book or website or if you’ve paid to have it designed and created for you, you want to make sure that you’re the only one who’s using it.

Are you curious if your images and/or written works have been stolen?

Recent additions to the world of web site tracking have made it quick, easy and inexpensive to see if you’re being ripped off.

Here are some sources to use online to track your intellectual works.

1. Google Reverse Image Search (<http://tinyurl.com/9nycq68>)

Click on the camera icon in the search bar and upload the image. Google then brings up the sources for the image that you searched for.

2. TinEye [www.tineye.com](http://www.tineye.com)

This works in a similar way as Google Reverse Image Search and the results are usually the same but not always.

3. CopyScape [www.copyscape.com](http://www.copyscape.com)

This works in the same way as the above but for written words instead of pictures.

The best way to protect your images is to watermark them with Digimark®. It’s definitely NOT a cheap solution but it’s the best way to digitally watermark your images to keep track of them online.

Check out their website at www.digimarc.com for the details and pricing information.

What to do if your images have been stolen

You have found that your images have been stolen… now what? You have a few different options on what you can do:

1. Send a Cease & Desist letter. This is an email (you can find various form letters via Google) where you are requesting removal of your intellectual works from the website within a set amount of days before you pursue legal action. This is not a requirement. If you choose, you can skip to any of the following steps.

2. Send an Invoice. Send the violator an invoice outlining your cost for the use of the image for the length of time and purpose they used it for. I highly recommend this method if you have had images stolen by a business but many have had luck with this method with photographers as well.

3. File a lawsuit. If you have had enough or have had no luck with the above steps, call a lawyer and file a lawsuit. Note that you can sue even if the image was taken down when you requested. You get more damages if your watermark was removed and/or if you have registered the image so make sure you are doing both!