

UNDERSTANDING RIGHTS REVERSION

Fact-Finding Worksheet

Rights reversion is the process of getting rights back to a work. By prompting you to answer questions about your situation, this worksheet is designed to help you examine possible strategies and approaches you might use to revert rights or otherwise make your book available in the ways you want. This worksheet is intended to be used alongside the Authors Alliance guide to *Understanding Rights Reversion* and the information and templates for *Crafting a Reversion Letter*, both available at <https://www.authorsalliance.org/resources/rights-reversion-portal/>.

1. How will you increase your book's availability?

Describe the formats in which you'd like to make your book available and how you will make your book available in these ways. Consider some of the options available to you by consulting pages 14-23 of *Understanding Rights Reversion*.

2. What rights did you transfer to your publisher in your contract?

For more information, review pages 24-35 of *Understanding Rights Reversion*. (For this question, you will need a copy of your contract. If you no longer have a copy, you can reach out to your publisher to request a copy. If you still cannot locate a copy, proceed to Q6.)

3. Do you currently have the right to do what you want with your book with the rights you retained?

For more information, consult pages 36-39 of *Understanding Rights Reversion*.

- ☐ **Yes.** I did not transfer to my publisher the rights I need to do what I want with my book.
 - If you already have the right to do what you want with your book, then you do not need to revert rights. You may want to consult with an expert to confirm your conclusion.
- ☐ **No.** I transferred to my publisher the rights I need to do what I want with my book.
 - It is time to take a closer look at your publication contract to determine if you are eligible to revert rights under the terms of your contract. Proceed to Q4.
- ☐ **I don't know** if I transferred to my publisher the rights I need to do what I want with my book.
 - If you are unsure whether you transferred the rights you need to do what you want with your book to your publisher, it may be helpful to complete the rest of this worksheet and take your answers to an expert to review your case.

4. Does your contract include a reversion clause?

For more information, consult pages 40-44 of *Understanding Rights Reversion*.

- ☐ **Yes.** My contract includes a reversion clause.
 - The next step is to determine whether you are eligible to exercise your reversion clause. Proceed to Q5.a.
- ☐ **No.** My contract does not include a reversion clause.
 - It may still be possible to revert rights or otherwise make your book available in the ways you want without a reversion clause. Proceed to Q6.
- ☐ **I don't know** if my contract includes a reversion clause.
 - You may want to consult with an expert to help you review your contract for a reversion clause. Before you do so, it may be helpful to respond to Q6 in case your contract does not include a reversion clause (or in the event that it does but you are not eligible to exercise the clause).

5.a. What conditions do you need to meet in order to be eligible to exercise your reversion clause?

For more information, turn to pages 45-48 of *Understanding Rights Reversion*.

5.b. Have you met these conditions?

Turn to pages 49-57 of *Understanding Rights Reversion* for more information on evaluating whether you are eligible to exercise a reversion clause.

- ☐ **Yes.** I have met the conditions of my reversion clause.
 - The next step is to evaluate whether reversion is the best option for your book and, if so, exercise your right of reversion. Review pages 58-69 of *Understanding Rights Reversion* and “Letter A” in *Crafting a Reversion Letter* to help you with this task.
- ☐ **No.** I have not met the conditions of my reversion clause.
 - It can still be possible to revert rights or otherwise make your book available in the ways you want if you are not eligible to exercise your reversion clause. Proceed to Q6.
- ☐ **I don’t know** if I have met the conditions of my reversion clause.
 - You may want to consult with an expert to help you review your contract to determine if you are eligible to exercise your reversion clause. Before you do so, it may be helpful to respond to Q6 in case you are not eligible to exercise the clause.

6. How might you convince your publisher to revert rights or otherwise make your book available in the ways you want?

If your contract does not include a reversion clause, or you are not eligible to exercise a right of reversion, you can still make the case to your publisher to get your rights back. Turn to pages 70-101 of *Understanding Rights Reversion* for strategies you can use to persuade your publisher to revert rights, or grant permission, for you to do what you want with your book.

- ☐ My book is unavailable.
- ☐ Sales of my book are low.
- ☐ My publisher is not using all the rights it holds in my book.
- ☐ My book is too expensive.
- ☐ My publisher released books that compete with my book.

Elaborate and provide any additional compelling reasons here:

You can use the reasons you listed here to write a persuasive letter to your publisher requesting your rights back. See “Letter B” in *Crafting a Reversion Letter* to help you with this task.

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