

SUBMITTING YOUR WORK TO LAW – THE BASICS

We are happy to consider submissions from new authors, but please be aware that we are a small agency with a busy client list and we take on only a handful of new clients each year from the thousands of approaches made to us, many of which are from established writers and artists. If you are a new author, do read the FAQs for New Authors section of the website before doing anything else and do consult the *Writers' and Artists' Yearbook* (published by A and C Black and available from bookshops and libraries) which is an essential start point for any aspiring author and/or illustrator.

We have a broad range of interests and expertise. We are interested in looking at the best in full-length commercial and literary fiction and non-fiction for adults; and work for children of all ages (including illustrated work and young adult/crossover fiction). But we are also interested in innovative projects that lend themselves to development across different media platforms. We are committed to finding those individual, exciting creative people whose work might also benefit from the opportunities our speakers' agency offers; and we are also always on the look-out for the right brands, characters and properties. We operate equally happily in both the print and digital publishing worlds and have an excellent track record in selling our authors' work internationally across all media. We do not represent authors of adult fantasy or science fiction, plays, poetry or textbooks. Film/TV scripts are handled for established clients only. Please note we are unlikely to accept submissions from overseas.

Current categories in which we are active include:

- Autobiography
- Biography
- Characters and brands
- Children's fantasy
- Children's fiction (including series fiction)
- Children's picture books
- Children's novelty books
- Crime
- Current Affairs
- Food and Cookery
- General Non-fiction

General Fiction
Health and Beauty
History
Memoirs
Military
Music
Politics
Popular Culture
Reference
Sport
Thrillers
Young Adult
Women's fiction

Submissions should be sent, **in hard copy only**, to **Submissions, 14 Vernon Street, London, W14 ORJ** with a stamped addressed envelope for your material if return is required. Any material received without the appropriate SAE will be recycled. Please keep a copy of all work you send and never send original artwork – we cannot accept liability for any loss.

We endeavour to respond to all submissions sent with the appropriate SAE within eight to twelve weeks, although this is not always possible. Due to the high volume of submissions we receive, please note we are unable to provide individual editorial comments. We cannot return material sent to us from overseas.

Having looked at our client list, and having done all your market research, if you think LAW is the right agency for your book please use the checklist which follows before making your submission:

DO

- Send an introductory covering letter telling us about you and your work.
- Send a short synopsis (not longer than one side of A4).
- Send the first three chapters or first thirty pages of your manuscript (whichever is the greatest), typewritten and printed double-spaced on A4 paper, without binding or staples and not in plastic wallets. If you are submitting a children's picture book, please send us the whole manuscript.
- Include good quality copies of any artwork if your submission includes illustrations (but **not** original artwork).
- Include a self-addressed stamped envelope of appropriate size if you would like your work returned to you.
- Include a contact email or small stamped addressed envelope for our reply if you do not want your submission to be returned and are happy for it to be recycled.

DON'T

- Telephone or email LAW prior to making your submission. It shouldn't be necessary if you follow the submission guidelines.
- Send in your submission by email or fax, or post to us CDs or USBs. **We do not accept unsolicited electronic submissions.**
- Include International Reply Coupons if you are sending your submission from outside of the UK – we are unable to return submissions overseas, so please include an email address so we can reply to you. If you do not hear within 6 weeks of submission you can assume your work is not probably right for us.

FAQs for New Authors

What should I do before making any submission?

Find out all you can about the business of being an author before submitting your work anywhere. There is a substantial amount of general help and advice in the *Writers' and Artists' Yearbook* to get you started. Being a writer and/or illustrator is never an easy career option and there is a lot of hard work and development needed before approaching a literary agent or seeking publication. Read as much as you can about other authors' experiences and work to find out more about what the reality might be like. If you are committed to a particular area of the market – women's romance, children's books, popular science – research and read as much as you can about it. Make sure any work you submit is of the highest possible finished standard.

How can I get some feedback on my work?

Agents and publishers rarely – if ever – provide feedback on submissions – their editorial and creative work is usually reserved for their existing clients. If you feel you need more editorial guidance or creative feedback – or help developing your technical skills - *The Writers' and Artists' Yearbook* also contains information about editorial services and literary consultants available to authors. These services can be quite expensive, so do establish how such services would work for you before proceeding.

You might also consider joining a writers' group or looking at creative courses – details of any that might be active near you can usually be found through your local library. There are also a number of a number of UK-based writing workshops and courses again listed in the *Writers and Artists' Yearbook*.

What else do I need to be prepared to do to be a successful author?

Authors increasingly are playing a dynamic part in their own marketing, publicity and promotion both online and in public performance. Publishers want authors who have the personal charisma to win new audiences and the time, energy and commitment to grow their readership and fan base. Be prepared to build and maintain your own website, social networks, and stand up in front of an audience (live or on TV or radio). Or be prepared to convince someone you can do it a different way...