

Clark-Susan-20050304160003

To: Julie L. Sigall  
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

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From: Susan Clark

Comment:

In preparation for works around an individual whose direct heir died in 1978, with no direct descendants, I tried to locate anyone who might have a future interest. That person is the great grand niece of the person in question...her great grandmother was the individual's sister. I did receive a release from her, just to be safe.

I was preparing to design a doll. I researched different types of dolls. While researching, I discovered a style I wanted to use. I found a book with a pattern. I researched the copyright holder of the book and could find nothing. No publisher, no author, no editor. To be "safe", I let it be and created my own design.

The copyright restrictions were vague and confusing.

I now understand why NO ONE creates works based on historical figures or previous works. As a creator, you never know if it will come back to "haunt" you.