

PATENTS-TRADEMARKS-COPYRIGHTS

A **trademark** is a word, phrase, symbol or design, or a combination of words, phrases, symbols or designs, that identifies and distinguishes the source of the goods of one party from those of others. A trademark protects the name of a business or product.

The Secretary of State is the filing agent for Trademarks, Emblems, and Name Registrations under the laws of South Dakota and can be contacted at 605-773-3537. State statutes governing Trademark and Service Mark Protection can be found in SDCL 37-6.

A **patent** is a property right granted by the Government of the United States of America to an inventor “to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States or importing the invention into the United States” for a limited time in exchange for public disclosure of the invention when the patent is granted. A patent protects an invention.

For more information on patents call the US Patent & Trademark Office: 1-800-786-9199.

A **copyright** protects works of authorship, such as writings, music, and works of art that have been tangibly expressed.

For more information on copyrights call the US Copyright Office: 202-707-3000 or toll free at 1-877-476-0778.



SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

**CONSUMER
PROTECTION**

1302 E Hwy 14 Ste 3 • Pierre SD 57501   consumerhelp@state.sd.us

1-800-300-1986

This handout is for informational purposes and should not be construed as legal advice or as a policy of the South Dakota Attorney General. If you need advice on a particular issue, you should consult a private attorney or other experts.

WWW.CONSUMER.SD.GOV • 605-773-4400 • 1-800-300-1986