

Licensing your content: When do you need a release?

To license your photos commercially, under a typical royalty-free license, you may be required to provide a model or property release. Remember, if you do not have a release, we may still be able to license your image under an “Editorial Use Only” license when it becomes available.

The information provided below are general guidelines and are only meant to provide a very general overview of the requirements of licensing content and the releases required. For definitive answers to specific content, a lawyer in your jurisdiction should be consulted.

Model Release Requirements:

Content	Description	Need Release?
Recognizable Person	A person who would recognize themselves in the photo.	Yes
Silhouette / Obscured / Body Parts of People	Contextually recognizable to themselves based on location, time of day, or others around them.	Yes
Large Group or Crowd of People	Each individual who would recognize themselves in the full resolution version of the image.	Yes
Uniformed Individuals	Uniformed Workers, Police, Ambulance Crew, Military, etc.	Yes

Download a [model release](#) here or use our new [Releases by 500px app](#).

Please note: for Releases in any other language than English, we are only able to support those provided by the [Easy Release app](#) *if unmodified*.

Property Release Requirements:

Content	Description	Need Release?
Castles, Museums, Theme Parks, Galleries, Libraries, etc.	Most policies for these locations prohibit commercial photography indoors, within the property or where the property is the primary focus.	Yes
Public Property	Sidewalks, parks, areas accessible to the public. Including exterior shots of private property where it is not the primary focus such as a skyline or landscape.	No
Private or Commercial Property Locations	Interior shots of recognizable locations that are privately owned or managed.	Yes
Landmarks, Monuments and Public Artwork	Unless classified in the public domain, some landmarks and most modern public artworks require a release. This varies greatly depending on ownership, country of origin and date of creation.	Possible. Contact owners for more info.
Logos, Branding or Registered Company Names	Any trademarked intellectual property.	Yes
Zoo Animals, Pets, Privately owned Animals	An animal that is privately owned and recognizable to it's owner. Does not include wildlife.	Yes
Product Designs	Distinct electronics, designer furniture and clothing, etc. that is the primary focus of the photo.	Yes
Artwork or other Intellectual Property	Works of art or intellectual property such as writings, designs, sculpture, painting, drawings, etc.	Yes

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