



**Authors'
Licensing and
Collecting
Society**

ALCS AND WRITERS' ESTATES

We collect and pay money to the beneficiaries
of writers' estates.



We believe that writers have a right to be paid.

ALCS collects money for writers and their beneficiaries, where their works have been used in the UK and across the world. Since 1977, we have paid over £500 million to writers. We make two payments a year to members and you might be paid in one or both of these, depending on what money we've collected for you.

"ALCS keeps abreast of the massive scale of modern copyright issues and is always out there looking after our interests and sending us regular cheques for the money they recover. Plus they are clear, friendly and helpful to deal with. We owe them a big debt."

Maggie Gee, Novelist

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN

Copyright lasts for 70 years after the death of an author, so beneficiaries of authors are eligible to join ALCS.

Sign up as a Successor Member of ALCS; then we'll pay you any money we collect for the use of the estate's works.

We collect royalties due to UK works from around the world and then match the money received with the writers of the works in question. If the writer isn't already an ALCS member, we carry out research to locate them.

We're a not-for-profit membership organisation. To fund the running of our company, we charge a commission fee on the money we pay out to you. The current commission fee can be found on our website alcs.co.uk



WHO SHOULD APPLY

The beneficiary or beneficiaries under the Will or the eligible representative of the estate of the deceased should apply for Successor Membership. If royalties are not mentioned specifically in the Will then the residual beneficiaries should apply. If you are applying as a representative (for example, a Solicitor administering the estate), please notify ALCS as soon as the appropriate beneficiary(ies) have been identified, as they should apply for Successor Membership in place of the Estate Representative.

HOW TO JOIN

Complete the application for membership form and return this along with copies of either the relevant clause of the Will, or a copy of the Grant of Probate, to ALCS.

"If you aren't registered with ALCS, it's worth signing up, they're a lovely organisation that give a lot of support to authors."

David Banks, ALCS member



MULTIPLE BENEFICIARIES

We can pay multiple beneficiaries of an estate; however, we recommend that if payments are relatively small, then only one representative joins (with the written permission of the others).

If you require further forms or need to discuss this, please contact the ALCS office: alcs.co.uk/contact

After joining, you simply need to keep your account up-to-date with any changes to your personal details so that we can continue to make payments to you.



WHAT WE DO

We make sure you receive the money you're entitled to as a writer or a beneficiary when works are copied or used. We collect money from all over the world, then pay it to our members. So far we've paid over £500 million. We're a not-for-profit organisation with over 100,000 members. We're open to all types of writers and are owned by our members. The money we collect is for 'secondary uses' of members' work — such as photocopies, cable retransmission, digital reproduction and educational recording. These sorts of rights typically bring in small amounts of money that are difficult for writers to monitor individually, so the most effective way to gather them is collectively. It takes tireless investigation, as well as experience and expertise. But nowadays, with the help of our bespoke IT systems, we can collect money from all over the world through agreements with over 55 different societies in more than 40 countries. We also campaign and lobby on matters important to writers — both at a national and international level — to ensure writers' rights are recognised and rewarded.

Nobody else in the world does exactly what we do, though we're often compared to other organisations. We measure our worth by the amount of money we've collected and paid to writers and by the number who join us, as well as by our successes in lobbying and educating about copyright.

HOW ALCS IS RUN

ALCS aims to be as transparent as possible in all areas of our business. All our documents relating to the way in which ALCS operates as a collecting society and our offering to members can be downloaded from our website alcs.co.uk/how-alcs-is-run

When writers join ALCS, they are asked to sign the terms and conditions of ALCS membership. These terms and conditions set out the 'rights' which you, as a member, are granting to ALCS and which enable us to collect on your behalf. The terms and conditions relate specifically to the ALCS Memorandum and Articles of Association.

If at any time members wish to withdraw any of these rights from ALCS, they can do so by contacting us. The notice period for withdrawing rights is set out in our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

There are two key documents that explain how ALCS operates — our Memorandum and Articles of Association, which sets out the way we operate, and our Distribution Rules, which sets out the specific ways in which we distribute income to our members. Both documents can be accessed at alcs.co.uk/how-alcs-is-run



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