



## 3 reasons why you shouldn't copy your friend's legal document

### podcast episode 18 tip sheet

Truth be told, it can be tempting to copy someone else's legal document. But this podcast episode covers 3 reasons why you should pause before you copy your friend's legal docs.

If you're like most entrepreneurs, you're probably thinking:

- Ugh, the last thing I want to do is deal with the legal stuff in my business!
- Why do lawyers have to be so expensive anyway?
- Do I REALLY need to have legal documents up on my website or to use with clients?

Can't I just grab something off of some cheap service on the internet – or better yet, can't I just copy my friend's legal document?

You just want to do what is fastest, easiest and cheapest, so you don't have to spend too much money (or really ANY money) and feel like you're legally protected.

You might want to even cut and paste legal documents you found through Google one day. Or you might want to buy some really cheaply from some legal service online.

Like with most things, when you're trying to take the easy way out – or even a shortcut, shall we say, you don't usually get what you pay for. The cheap version breaks. It gives out. It ends up being flimsy. It doesn't hold up.

#### **The same is true when it comes to legal documents.**

The legal document you got from your friend may not be the one you really needed – but you don't even know it.

#### **Cutting and pasting legal documents can leave holes the size of swiss cheese.**

And while it can be tempting to copy and paste a Website Disclaimer or copy an agreement from your bestie or someone else who is in your same industry – and I know it can be tempting! – you don't want to do that at all. Ever.

### **3 Big Reasons Why You Shouldn't Copy Your Friend's Legal Document:**

#### **1. Copying someone else's legal document could be a violation.**

Unbeknownst to you, copying a friend's document is actually taking (some might say stealing) work that someone else paid for and you might be violating their copyright rights. Even if you are given permission, it may result in your friend violating the purchase terms from their lawyer which could land them – and possibly also you - in trouble.

#### **2. Copying someone else's legal document may not even fully cover you.**

The language your friend used also may not be appropriate for you. You could be getting a chopped up, piecemeal document that neither of you knows is piecemeal. They may not even have had legal assistance in creating the document and just randomly pulled language together into one document – I see that all the time! - so you both could end up using legal language with holes and gaps everywhere.

#### **3. Copying someone else's legal document can be bad karma.**

In the long run, copying or taking someone else's documents can create a karmic debt will hang over you and come back around in a spiritual sense which you don't want. It can create bad juju. It can be low-vibe. It's not showing respect for your work or business - or for other people's work or business.

You want STRONG and LONG legal documents so that you don't leave out any important language that you might need to rely on later.

### **Here are 3 Tips for choosing legal documents for your business:**

#### **1. You can use legal templates.**

But be sure to choose templates that are specifically designed for online business owners. Don't just go to any website that sells templates because they're cheap. Be sure they will address what YOU do as a business owner – so you don't end up using website terms for an app developer or construction company if you're a website designer, for example.

#### **2. You want to work with a lawyer who understands the work that you do.**

This is important. Make sure that the lawyer speaks your language and that you are on the same page. When you're hiring a lawyer, it's no different than hiring a coach, website designer, graphic designer, accountant or any other member of your team. Make sure it's a good fit.

### 3. You want to do a little research first.

Check out the lawyer's About page. Find out about their experience, training, and other information about them that lets you know that they will "get" you and what you need. Have your biz besties worked with that lawyer before? Have you heard that lawyer interviewed on webinars or bonus calls for your industry? When you check out their website, do you feel like that lawyer understands what you do and they'll understand your work?



**And if you need to hire an accountant – as well as a lawyer -  
and you have no idea what questions to ask when you're interviewing them,  
download a free checklist of  
"10 Questions to Ask When You're Hiring an Accountant"  
at [lisafraley.com/accountant](https://lisafraley.com/accountant)**



When you put legit legal documents in place, you support your **sacral chakra** – your 2nd chakra down in your hip region where all of the good stuff lives - and create a platform for expansiveness, abundance, and trust to grow because you're showing respect for your business. As you do so, other people will show your business trust and respect too.





**If you need any of the documents referenced in the podcast episode, you can learn more about how to get easy DIY legal templates here:**

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Do you have questions about legal templates or want to share ideas about future topics you'd like to hear about on the podcast, just send us a note at [clientlove@lisafraley.com](mailto:clientlove@lisafraley.com). We'd love to hear from you!

As always, I believe you're set free to do your best work and create anything that you want when you get legally covered in a loving way.

With Legal Love,

*Lisa*

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**For my full disclaimer, please visit [lisafraley.com/disclaimer](https://lisafraley.com/disclaimer).**



Lisa Fraley, JD, CHHC, AADP, is an acclaimed attorney, Legal Coach®, speaker and #1 Best Selling Author of "Easy Legal Steps...That are Also Good for Your Soul." With her unique blend of coaching, legal expertise, and spirituality, Lisa has supported thousands of heart-centered entrepreneurs and small business owners to protect themselves, their businesses and their brands through DIY legal templates, online legal courses and one-on-one services.

From sharing international stages with thought leaders like Kris Carr and Gabrielle Bernstein to being featured on hundreds of podcasts, webinars, radio shows and bonus calls, Lisa has made it her mission to help every single small business owner understand that the law can be accessible, empowering, loving, and even spiritual. When she's not saving the world (with Legal Love) one contract at a time, she's posting free legal tips and connecting with her tribe at [lisafraley.com](https://lisafraley.com).