LEGAL KITTY™ CHEAT SHEET

AI Likeness Laws, State by State

Where you live, work and die changes the rules for your replica.

KEY PRINCIPLES

1 **Three states strike vague replica clauses.**
California (2025), New York (2025) and Illinois (2026). Paperwork differs: New York's lawyer exception wants terms separately signed or initialed. No damages; the clause falls.

2 **Tennessee protects the sound of you.**
The ELVIS Act covers your voice "regardless of" whether it's real or "a simulation," reaches cloning-tool makers, and lets your exclusive label sue too.

3 **After death, domicile picks the clock.**
70 years in California, 50 in Illinois, 40 in New York, 10-plus in Tennessee. New York covers only people domiciled there at death, and heirs must register.

4 **AI labels are arriving in ads.**
New York requires a synthetic-performer disclosure in ads now ($1,000, then $5,000). California's ad label starts January 1, 2027.

KEY EXAMPLES Real cases, from the full guide

Cash Trust v. Coca-Cola
M.D. Tenn., filed 2025

The trust says a tribute singer's voice was "readily identifiable" as Johnny Cash's. Pending; these are allegations.

FOR YOU **Under ELVIS, a sound-alike can be enough to plead.**

Comedy III v. Saderup
Cal. 2001

Realistic Three Stooges drawings on T-shirts lost under California's post-mortem statute. No significant creative elements.

FOR YOU **Put replica wishes in your estate plan.**

Lehrman v. Lovo
S.D.N.Y. 2025

New York §§50–51 can reach AI clones of living voice actors; §50-f didn't leave the living out. A pleading ruling; now stayed.

FOR YOU **Old likeness laws can reach new clones.**

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KEY CLAUSES

Red flag, green flag

Push back on the red. Ask for the green.

	RED FLAG · PUSH BACK	GREEN FLAG · ASK FOR
NEW YORK	Replica terms buried in the main contract	Replica terms separately signed or initialed
RENEWALS	Old deal "modified" with no replica description	Replica description in the same amendment
ILLINOIS	Verbal OK for commercial use	Previous written consent, as the statute says
TENNESSEE	Label exclusivity silent on voice claims	Who sues over clones, stated up front
ESTATE	No instructions on post-death replicas	Named decision-maker; heirs register early
PROOF	No watermark, so it must be real	No watermark means unknown, not authentic

Condensed from the REPLICA Part 2 "your move" lines. Teaching examples, not forms.

GO DEEPER

REPLICA Part 2, the 25-page state-by-state part of REPLICA.
Free at legalkitty.com/guides

Full part: DM **REPLICA2**
This sheet: DM **STATEMAP**

Don't sign it till you read it.

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