

How to Work With Self-Publishing Services (7 Warning Signs)

*This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:
[A Guide to the Top 6 Self-Publishing Companies \(Tools for Writers Series\)](#)*

Before you hand over money to a self-publishing company, check for potential warning signs:

1. **No contact details.** You should be able to pick up the phone and call, or at least send an email and get a personalized response within 24-48 hours.
2. **No testimonials.** There should be plenty of social proof of other authors who've worked with the service.
3. **A hard sell.** If the sales team is pushing you to upgrade your package, it's a warning sign that they only care about getting your money and not about getting results.
4. **Cryptic or unclear pricing.** Reputable services explain exactly how much they charge. They don't require that you email them first for pricing.
5. **Required purchases.** Avoid companies that force you to buy a specific amount of copies as part of your contract.
6. **Asks you to sign over your rights.** The service is an assistant, not a publisher. You should retain all material rights.
7. **Guarantees that you will become a bestseller.** No one, not even a traditional publisher, can fulfill such a promise.