



Provisional Patents

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Q What is a provisional patent application?

A A provisional patent application (PPA) consists of text and drawings describing how to make and use your invention. A PPA can establish an effective filing date for your invention, and allows use of the term “patent pending” for 12 months from that filing date. If you file a regular patent application within 12 months of filing the PPA, the PPA’s filing date could help you prove that your invention came before others’. Filing a PPA is generally a quicker and less expensive process than filing a regular patent application. However, a PPA will not, by itself, get you a patent. The PPA only lets you preserve rights while you decide whether to file a regular patent application.