

Subject: Reminder: Protect Your Royalties

From: BMI Communications (bmicomunications@bmi.com)

To: SMILINGI_G@YAHOO.COM;

Date: Friday, November 13, 2015 9:32 AM

[Web Version](#) | [Update preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



Join Thousands of Music Creators in Making Your Voice Heard to the U.S. DOJ

Reminder: There's just one week left to add your name to this important letter letting the Justice Department know where you stand on fractional licensing. If you've already signed on, we thank you. If not, please take a moment to read this critical information and use this opportunity to make your voice heard.

Take Action Now

The deadline for public comments to the DOJ is November 20, 2015. It only takes a *moment* to sign: Please act now!


George E. Chambers

Dear BMI Member,

The U.S. Department of Justice is reviewing BMI and ASCAP's consent decrees and is now considering an interpretation that would have a profound effect on your relationship with BMI, your choice of creative collaborator and your livelihood as a songwriter or publisher.

Specifically, the DOJ's interpretation would change the way the PROs license music co-written by writers from different PROs. It would abandon the long-established industry practice of dealing fractionally with split works -- where BMI collects and pays you for your share of a co-written song under our specific valuation system -- in favor of a mandatory 100% licensing model.

The DOJ is currently seeking public comments on this issue by November 20, and we urge you to read the facts below and use this opportunity to make your voice heard.

100% licensing would allow any one co-owner of a work to license 100% of the work without needing the permission of the other co-owners. As a result, you would be impacted both creatively and financially if you collaborate and co-write a song with an ASCAP writer.

In a 100% licensing world, if a music user decides to license your co-written song from ASCAP and not BMI:

- ASCAP could license your co-written works at ASCAP's own rate, not under BMI's specific valuation system.
- ASCAP could reduce your payment by its own overhead rate even before it enters BMI's distribution system.
- You could be subject to ASCAP's distribution methodology, not BMI's.
- Your royalty distributions could be delayed by this process.

If this interpretation were put into action, in order to avoid this and ensure that only BMI licenses your share in co-written works, you would have to collaborate only with other BMI writers (and even then, with no guarantee that they would remain at BMI). Suddenly, your choice of collaborator would no longer be determined by choosing the best writer for the job; it would be driven by the co-writer's affiliation.

If you want to be free to work with your choice of collaborator, to create the best songs possible and to be paid individually and fairly for your share of the work, let the DOJ know where you stand on this issue before it issues its final position.

BMI has made the outreach process simple. Use our online tool to add your name to the list of songwriters, composers and publishers opposed to the DOJ's interpretation of BMI's decree.

Take Action Now

Don't wait, the deadline for submissions is November 20, 2015.

If you have already signed on, we thank you. *There is no need to sign again.*

[Edit your subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

BMI

7 World Trade Center
250 Greenwich Street
30th Floor
New York, NY 10007