

## Duplicate Claims FAQs



### **What is Duplicate Claims and what are the rules governing disputes and duplicate claims?**

Duplicate Claims is a process within Copyright which enables us to deal with conflicts arising on the work.

There are several types of conflict which may arise. These are as follows:

**Ownership** – This is when there is a dispute as to who currently controls/owns any share in the work

**Authorship** – This is when is a dispute as to who the authors of a work are.

**Author-share** – This is when there is no disagreement over who the authors of the work are but there is a conflict over the shares attributed to each author.

The duplicate claims process follows a set of guidelines that determines the rules and procedures that we will follow when a conflict arises on a work. [Click here](#) to review the guidelines.

### **How and why do my songs get placed into the Duplicate Claims process?**

Once a conflict is established on your work, usually by the Copyright Registration Team, the new registration is passed over to the duplicate claims team for further investigation. The member who submits the conflicting claim is known as 'The New Claimant.' All other parties on the work are know as 'The Original Claimant'

The Duplicate Claims team would then flag the work as a possible duplicate claim and load the duplicate claim onto PRS for Music's online services

If you have access to online services, you will be automatically notified of the conflict and asked to provide supporting documentation within a 90 day period.

If you haven't yet signed up to PRS for Music's online services we would sent out a notification to you in the post. We do however recommend that all our members [sign up](#).

### **What is the difference between a duplicate claim and a disputed claim?**

A **Duplicate Claim** is when a conflict has been acknowledged and flagged on a work. At this stage we request documents first from the New Claimant. Once documents have been received from the New Claimant then the shares on the work are suspended and we request Supporting Documents from the Existing Claimants. Once we have also received supporting documents from the Existing Claimant the work becomes a **Dispute**. This means that the conflicting shares are

held in suspense. This can be all or part of the shares on a work. No monies are paid out on the shares that are held in suspense. Once a work is placed into dispute it will remain this way until all parties involved in the conflict come to a resolution and notify us of this.

### **How do my works get removed from the duplicate claim or dispute process?**

#### **Works can be removed from the duplicate claim process if:**

- The new claimant fails to supply supporting documents within their 90 day timeframe.
- The existing claimant fails to supply supporting documents within their 90 timeframe.
- The new claimant withdraws their claim.
- The existing claimant withdraws their claim.
- Either party reduces their claim enabling the conflict to be resolved.

#### **Works can be removed from the dispute process if:**

- Either party relinquishes their claim
- Either party reduces their claim enabling the conflict to be resolved.
- All parties inform the society of a settlement
- The society receives a copy of a court order to the effect that the dispute has been resolved

## **Terms and Definitions**

**Who is the New Claimant** – This is the member who is submitting the new claim. In cases where there are duplicate entries on the system with conflicting owners, both parties are treated as a New Claimant

**Who is the Existing Claimant** – This is the member who is currently on the work.

**What Supporting Documentation do we accept?** – From a publisher we accept Sub Publishing Agrmts/ESAs/SSAs/Transfer Agrmts/Purchase Agrmts/US Copyright Renewal/Statutory Declaration, depending on the details of the claim. From a writer we would accept a Statutory Declaration only.

**What is Interim Suspense?** – Temporary suspense account which is used only when we have received supporting documentation from the new claimant. This makes adjustments easier if the existing claimants do not support their claim and the work is updated in favour of the new claimant.

**What is Part/Full Dispute?** – This will only appear on a work once we have received sufficient supporting documents from all parties involved in the duplicate claim. The work will remain in this status until all parties come to their own resolution and notify us in writing of this resolution.