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**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2015 1:42 PM

**To:** ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review

**Subject:** Perhaps this is all a misunderstanding

Hi there,

I'm not sure who is reviewing these – if it's someone intimately familiar with music, then my apologies, as this will be quite obvious, but if not, then maybe this analogy will help.

Imagine you are married. You and your partner have a child. Technically, you both co-own that child, let's say 50% each.

One day, your partner decides to take the child and move to Sweden. See, there's this law in place that, whoever owns a portion of this child, can do whatever it wants with this child. No one else has to be consulted, not even the other co-owners, because one partial owner can have all the power.

The parent who has left for Sweden gives no warning this will happen, leaves no contact information, and posts no itinerary.

One parent has kidnapped the child, leaving the other with no easy way of finding their offspring. But this is legal, because of this partial ownership law, so there's nothing they can do.

The songs re the children. The writers are the parent left behind. The parents who have exploited this hole are the kidnappers. And this law will be the enabler.

Please don't kidnap our songs and give us no way of finding them. From a business level, we're not set up for chasing this convoluted system, and on a personal level, it's theft from songwriters to take something they own without their permission.

Yes, licensing needs an overhaul.

No, this is not the way to do it.

There are plenty of people (me included) who would love to discuss how to make licensing easier in the long run. Please speak with us (the copyright owners) and not the people who seek to exploit us (and you!) before any decisions are made.

Best,

Sarah Brockman  
Senior Coordinator, Film & TV Licensing

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