



COPYRIGHT CLAIMS BOARD

Docket number: 23-CCB-0178
August 3, 2023

Rhonda J Pawnell

CLAIMANT

v.

Sony Music and Universal Music Publishing

RESPONDENT

ORDER DISMISSING CLAIM WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Claimant Rhonda J. Pawnell initiated this proceeding against respondents on May 23, 2023. On June 28, 2023, the Copyright Claims Board issued a [noncompliance order](#) that notified Pawnell that the claim did not comply with the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements for filings before the Board. [37 C.F.R. § 224.1\(C\)\(2\)](#). Pawnell submitted an amended claim on the same day. The Board again found it noncompliant and issued a second [noncompliance order](#) on July 28, 2023. On July 31, 2023, the claimant submitted a second amended claim, which was the final opportunity to submit a compliant claim. [17 U.S.C. § 1506\(f\)\(1\)\(B\)](#); [37 C.F.R. § 224.1\(d\)](#).

A Copyright Claims Attorney reviewed the second amended claim and concluded that the claim is still noncompliant for failing to meet multiple fundamental statutory and regulatory requirement, such as identifying proper respondents and establishing legal or beneficial ownership. *See* [17 U.S.C. § 1504\(c\)\(1\)](#); [37 C.F.R. § 222.2\(c\)\(5\)](#). In addition, the allegations against the respondents clearly do not state a claim upon which the Board may grant relief. [37 C.F.R. § 224.1\(b\)\(3\)](#). The Copyright Claims Attorney referred the second amended claim to me to confirm that it does not comply with the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and that this proceeding should therefore be dismissed without prejudice. [17 U.S.C. § 1506\(f\)\(1\)\(B\)](#). I have reviewed the second amended claim, and I concur with the finding of noncompliance.

The facts set forth in the second amended claim are virtually identical to those alleged, and found to be noncompliant, in the first amended claim. Accordingly, the second amended claim does not comply with the requirements of the CASE Act and related regulations for the same reasons set forth in the second noncompliance order, referred to above. In addition, claimant has listed a new work, titled “Songfile Harry Fox Agency” with a registration number of SR1531445. A search of U.S. Copyright Office records does not produce a registration with that title.

Accordingly, the Copyright Claims Board dismisses this proceeding without prejudice and closes this case. Dismissal without prejudice means that the claimant may raise the allegations again by filing a new claim that addresses the issues set forth in this proceeding’s noncompliance orders.