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copyright

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DMCA & Copyright FAQs Loading ×

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End of Search Dialog More Getting Started Beginner Broadcasting DMCA & Copyright FAQs Twitch is committed to supporting creators, so it's important that you respect other creators' rights in the content you stream and share on your channel.

If you use another person's copyrighted work in your content, they can send Twitch a takedown notification.

It is our policy to act on those notifications under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act ("DMCA") and similar laws worldwide.

It is also our policy to terminate the accounts of repeat infringers–i.e., people who on multiple occasions have been accused of infringing the rights of others.

Under our policy, a user will be considered a repeat infringer if they accrue three copyright strikes.

We know copyright law and the DMCA can be confusing, and that creators may not intend to infringe the copyrights of others.

We're here to help you understand the basics of copyright law and the tools available to you so that you can make informed decisions about using copyrighted material–including music, art, videos, etc.–in your stream to avoid potentially infringing others’ copyrights in the future.

Check out our Creator Camp article for more information about Copyrights and Your Channel and to watch the session we held around these topics.

On this page: Product Roadmap Recent Product Updates FAQs Copyright Infringement Claims Licensing Agreements Managing the Content on Your Channel Soundtrack by Twitch Product Roadmap

Our priority is to make it easier for you to understand and follow DMCA guidelines, and to provide you with the tools you need to know where you stand with copyright strikes and to easily control what content you share on your channel.

Q4 (Oct-Dec) 2020 Focus Area Product Updates Control what you share Multi-track audio support in OBS 26.1 Select individual VODs to unpublish Editor access to clips Q1/Q2 (Jan-Jun) 2021 Focus Area Product Updates Know where you stand Get notified about DMCA notifications on Twitch Track copyright strikes in the Video Producer Control what you share Select batches of up to 20 VODs to unpublish Select all VODs to unpublish Select batches of up to 20 VODs to delete Select all VODs to delete Watch VODs (published + unpublished) in the Video Producer Q3/Q4 (Jul-Dec) 2021 Focus Area Product Updates Know where you stand Copyright Claims Manager Redesigning our DMCA tooling so that we can give you access to more information directly from your Creator Dashboard Review the VODs identified in DMCA notifications from your Creator Dashboard Submit a counter-notification from your Creator Dashboard Control what you share Unpublish all VODs by default Auto-unpublish VODs by category Disable clips by category Multi-track audio support in Twitch Studio Re-architecture of our clips database so that we can expand selective filtering and deletion capabilities Sort & delete clips by date, game or view count Items in orange have launched.

Recent Product Updates Released in August 2021: More ways to manage your VOD and clip settings: Set all your VODs to default to being unpublished, or choose to auto-unpublish VODs only while streaming in specific categories.

Disable clips while streaming in specific categories.

Released in July 2021:

Easily keep track of copyright claims with the Copyright Claims Manager : If you receive a DMCA notification, you can now review the details of the notification (including the claimant, description of the copyrighted work, and URL) not only via email but also directly in your Creator Dashboard.

You can find the new Copyright Claims Manager under the Content section of your Dashboard.

Certain information may not be viewable in the Copyright Claims Manager.

Refer to the notice sent from no-reply@twitch.tv to the email linked to your account for additional information.

FAQs Sections:

Copyright Infringement Claims Licensing Agreements Managing the Content on Your Channel Soundtrack by Twitch Copyright Infringement Claims

If I receive a DMCA notification, can I purchase the licensing and send it to Twitch to not be penalized?

If the rights holder is willing to tell Twitch they have retracted the DMCA notification because they have given you a license, we will remove any copyright strike(s) associated with their notification and may be able to reinstate the challenged content.

If you believe that your use of a copyrighted work is covered by a license or otherwise authorized by law, you can also send Twitch a counter-notification by following the instructions in our DMCA Guidelines .

If a counter-notification is processed, we will remove copyright strike(s) associated with the notification in accordance with our policies.

Neither process (retraction nor counter-notification) involves sending Twitch a copy of your licensing agreements or any other documentation of licensing.

I received the necessary licensing to use copyrighted content but I still received a takedown notification.

What should I do?

If you receive a takedown notification and believe that you were licensed or otherwise authorized to use the copyrighted work(s) identified in the notification, you can either submit a counter-notification to Twitch or seek a retraction from the rights holder.

For instruction on submitting a counter-notification, please check out our DMCA Guidelines .

How do I deal with false claims that are submitted against my channel maliciously?

Our compliance team reviews incoming DMCA notifications not only for compliance with our DMCA Guidelines , but also for indications of fraud or abuse.

In the event you receive a DMCA notification that you believe is the result of a mistake or misidentification or is from someone pretending to be the rights holder, you have the ability to submit a counter-notification or seek a retraction.

There may be legal consequences, including damages and attorneys’ fees, if someone submits a DMCA notification that materially misrepresents that material is infringing.

If I submit a counter-notification and it’s approved, will that prevent me from getting a DMCA notification for the same song again?

It will not, both because copyrighted works can be used (or licensed, etc.) in different ways and because Twitch generally does not weigh the merits of a copyright dispute.

A counter-notification is a communication that you send to Twitch to dispute a particular DMCA takedown request.

Twitch is not a copyright court and isn’t in a position to approve or deny counter-notifications based on who’s right and who’s wrong between you and the rights holder.

Instead, Twitch reviews whether counter-notifications meet the requirements of our DMCA Guidelines and processes them if they do.

Submitting a counter-notification does not prevent a rights holder – even the same rights holder – from submitting a subsequent takedown request for a song included in your channel.

This may happen, for example, if you have purchased a license that is valid for one use, but not another.

Likewise, submitting a counter-notification in response to one DMCA notification does not prevent you from submitting one in response to another, different notification.

I received a DMCA notification for copyrighted music used in approved Bit extensions.

What should I do?

Extensions are tools that can be used in a variety of ways, including ways that involve the use of music.

Even when you’re using an Extension, you are responsible for ensuring you have the necessary rights to any music used in content on your channel.

A portion of one of my VODs was muted - does this mean someone sent a DMCA notification and I received a copyright strike?

It does not.

Twitch works with a third-party service to scan VODs as a proactive way to help broadcasters avoid having videos containing unauthorized audio.

If copyrighted audio is detected in a VOD, we automatically mute that portion of the VOD.

The fact that one of your VODs was muted does not mean that you received a DMCA notification, and muted VODs do not negatively impact your channel.

If you believe your VOD was muted in error – for example, because you own or have a license to the track(s) that led to the muting or did not play the track in your stream – and would like to have the VOD unmuted, please follow the steps outlined in How to Appeal Muted Audio .

Please note, however, that if the muted portion of your VOD contains unauthorized copyrighted material, a person or entity that holds a copyright in that material may choose to send a notification of claimed infringement pursuant to Twitch’s DMCA Guidelines , which could lead to a strike being issued against your channel.

Do copyright strikes expire?

We can confirm that copyright strikes expire.

While we can’t share more specifics, we can confirm that there are various factors that influence the expiration date including the date the strike was issued and the account’s standing on Twitch.

Licensing Agreements I have a license to play music in my stream but still received a DMCA takedown notification for the song.

How do I resolve this?

There may be several reasons.

First, DMCA notifications can be inaccurate.

If you believe you have the necessary rights to stream music on Twitch or include music in your recorded videos, you should consider submitting a counter-notification or contacting the person who submitted the DMCA notification to seek a retraction.

Follow the instructions in our DMCA Guidelines to submit a counter-notification.

Second, it is possible that your license does not cover the way you used the song on Twitch - we encourage you to review the terms of your license and only use music in the ways you’ve been authorized.

What happens if I had a license to use the content, and then the license changed or was revoked?

You are responsible for ensuring that you have the rights to live stream or store copyrighted material on Twitch.

If the terms of your licensing agreement change and you no longer have the rights to use the content, it is your responsibility to remove the content from your channel.

If you receive a DMCA takedown notification but believe that your license covers your use of the copyrighted material, you can submit a counter- notification or ask the rights holder to retract their claim.

In addition, if you believe your license covers your activities and your content was muted, you can refer to our help article on How to Appeal Muted Audio .

I’m a professional musician.

Can I play recordings of my own music on stream?

First off, we’re honored that you’ve arrived at Twitch and are interested in streaming.

We believe that you’re in the best position to determine, in light of any agreements you have entered, if you have the necessary rights to include your own music in the content on your channel.

Our Music Guidelines provide additional guidance about how you may and may not use music on Twitch, depending on the terms of your licenses.

For more tips on streaming music on Twitch, check out our guide here .

Do I need to worry about a DMCA notification if the artist has given public approval to use their music?

It’s possible for an artist to say they’re giving you a license to use their music when they don’t actually have the authority to do so because another party – for example, a record label or a music publisher – controls the rights to that music.

If an artist has given the public authorization to use their music and you receive a DMCA notification for that music, you might consider submitting a counter-notification or seeking a retraction from the artist or claimant.

Managing the Content on your Channel I have hundreds of Highlights and VODs saved.

What can I do to effectively manage this content?

We now have a mass-deletion tool for VODs and Highlights, as well as a bulk deletion option that lets you delete up to 20 videos at a time.

For more information on how to manage your VODs, check out the VODs help article .

It’s important to note that once you delete content from your channel, it can not be restored.

In addition, if you would like to review your VODs without having them be publicly visible, you have the option of unpublishing them.

Do you advise that I search for and delete clips with copyrighted music?

Or is it best to leave it to Twitch to delete the clips for me?

Your content is your responsibility.

Consider reviewing and removing recorded content from your channel (including clips, VODs, and Highlights) if you are not sure whether you have the necessary permission or authority to include copyrighted music in them.

If I delete a VOD or clip and then receive a DMCA notification for the content contained in that VOD or clip, will I still receive a copyright strike?

No.

If you deleted a VOD or clip before you received a notification against that VOD or clip, you should not receive a copyright strike.

Soundtrack by Twitch Copyrighted music is available to stream with Soundtrack.

Should I be concerned about receiving a DMCA takedown notification?

No, provided you install and use Soundtrack properly.

Soundtrack is designed to add music solely to your live streams, and any music played using Soundtrack has been licensed for this use.

To learn more about Soundtrack, check out the Soundtrack Help Article .

If I use Soundtrack, do I need to worry about licensing the music for my VODs?

Twitch is primarily a live streaming service, and we think the best discovery will come when Twitch creators and their fans can listen to tracks together.

We've focused on ensuring that music from Soundtrack is available in live streams, and we’ve made it easy for fans to listen to songs they discover on their music service of choice.