



# MANAGING YOUR APRA RIGHTS

Membership Team: 1800 642 634 [apra@apra.com.au](mailto:apra@apra.com.au) [www.apraamcos.com.au](http://www.apraamcos.com.au)

You don't have to rely on APRA to get paid when your music is played. You can deal directly with the music customers. Although APRA controls the performing right in all your songs when you become a writer or publisher member, there are also various options where you can take back some or all of those rights if you wish. There are two ways of doing this - we call them Opt Out and Licence Back.

Opt Out allows you to manage the rights in your **full repertoire** for particular music uses - for example, live performances. Licence Back allows you to licence **one or more of your songs** directly to a particular user, but we will continue to manage those rights for all other users.

Situations where APRA writer or publisher members often choose to deal directly with users, rather than license through APRA, include:

- where someone wishes to use a particular song of yours as music-on-hold or on their website;
- if you are in a band that largely performs its own songs and you organise your own touring and promotion;
- if you have a connection with a particular event (for example, a charity concert) and you would like your works to be performed at that event.

If you choose to deal directly with users, APRA will not enforce your rights or collect licence fees for those uses. This may affect your legal rights and income. You may want to get your own legal advice about this.

Here's how to apply for Opt out and Licence Back. If you need help with this, contact our membership team - details below.

## Licence Back

If you want to deal directly with someone in Australia or New Zealand to use one or more of your songs, APRA will grant you a Licence Back. You will need to tell APRA who you're licensing (by name or by description so we won't try to license them as well). APRA will still own the performing rights in the work and will continue to license all other customers.

## How do I get a Licence Back?

If you are going to license your live performance of your own music, performance in a cinema movie, or the communication (broadcast or online) of your songs, APRA needs written notice at least one week before the use.

For all other uses (live performances of your music by others or performances of recordings of your songs) APRA needs two weeks' written notice.

APRA also needs a signed consent and indemnity from all interested parties (for example, co-writers or publishers).

If the Licence Back arrangement is complex, we may charge an administration fee (capped at \$200).

### Forms

- [Request form for a Licence Back](#)
- [Consent form for a Licence Back](#)

## Free licence for personal website

If you want to offer your own music on your own website, for non-commercial purposes (ie your works are provided free) APRA will grant you a complimentary licence. The application process is quick and easy:

- [Form for APRA and/or AMCOS Members](#)

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information or help in completing any of the Opt Out or Licence Back application forms, please contact our Membership Team:

### Australia:

Writer Services on 1800 642 634 or [writer@apra.com.au](mailto:writer@apra.com.au)

### New Zealand:

Victoria Kelly on 0800 692 772 or [vkelly@apra.co.nz](mailto:vkelly@apra.co.nz)

## Opt Out

You can choose to Opt Out of APRA for certain categories of use, for all your works. This will give you complete control of all your works, worldwide, for that type of use. You will be able to grant licences to anyone for that use, on your terms, or you may choose not to license the works at all.

The categories of use are:

- public performance (anything other than broadcast and online)
- communication to the public other than by broadcasting (such as web streaming)
- live performance (such as at a concert or festival)
- public performance by means of film (cinema)
- public performance other than live performance and cinema (such as background music, fitness centres, and discos or dance parties)
- all broadcasting
- radio broadcasting
- free to air television broadcasting
- subscription (pay) television broadcasting

If you Opt Out, APRA will not license any uses of your works in the relevant category, and you won't receive any money from APRA for that category of use. APRA also will not be able to enforce your rights if someone infringes your copyright.

## How do I Opt Out?

The minimum period to Opt Out is 12 months. If you want to opt out, you must give APRA:

- at least three months written notice to take effect either on 1 January or 1 July in any year
- a signed consent and indemnity from all interested parties (for example, co-writers or publishers).

If the Opt Out arrangement is complex, we may charge an administration fee (capped at \$200).

### Forms

- [Request form for Opt Out](#)
- [Consent form for Opt Out](#)