

Spotify Stream Removal Action Checklist



Emergency Response Guide for Independent Artists

Download from NexaTunes Blog - Your structured approach to handling artificial streaming allegations



IMMEDIATE ACTIONS (First 48 Hours)

Documentation Phase

- ☐ Screenshot Spotify for Artists dashboard (current stream counts)
- ☐ Save all emails from Spotify/distributor with timestamps
- ☐ List affected tracks with release dates
- ☐ Document previous stream counts (if available)
- ☐ Create timeline of promotional activities (last 90 days)
- ☐ Gather contracts from any promotional services used
- ☐ Screenshot suspicious playlists or unusual data

Notes:

Contact Your Distributor

- ☐ Send professional email with all documentation
- ☐ Request specific reason from Spotify
- ☐ Ask about appeal process and timeline

- ☐ Request regular status updates
- ☐ Ask to speak with specialist if needed

Distributor Contact Info: - Name: _____ - **Email:** _____ - *Support Ticket #:* _____

Stop All Promotion

- ☐ Pause all paid advertising campaigns
 - ☐ Stop playlist submission services
 - ☐ Halt third-party promotional activities
 - ☐ Document cessation with timestamps
 - ☐ Inform team/collaborators about situation
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DATA ANALYSIS

Streaming Pattern Review

- ☐ Check for unusual geographic spikes
- ☐ Identify unexpected playlist placements
- ☐ Review completion/skip rates
- ☐ Compare patterns to promotional timeline
- ☐ Look for bot-like listening behavior

Suspicious Patterns Found:

Playlist Investigation

- ☐ List all playlists driving significant streams
- ☐ Research unfamiliar playlist curators
- ☐ Check playlist follower counts vs. stream delivery
- ☐ Identify playlists you didn't submit to
- ☐ Document playlist submission history

Problematic Playlists:



DISTRIBUTOR COMMUNICATION

Information to Provide

- ☐ Clear timeline of events
- ☐ All promotional service contracts
- ☐ Evidence of legitimate promotion
- ☐ Screenshots of unusual data
- ☐ Professional, factual summary

Questions to Ask

- ☐ What specific reason did Spotify provide?
- ☐ Is there an appeal process available?
- ☐ How long does review typically take?
- ☐ Will this affect my other releases?
- ☐ Can penalty fees be waived/reduced?

Distributor Response Summary:



DAMAGE CONTROL

Protect Other Releases

- ☐ Review promotional activities for all tracks
- ☐ Stop questionable services immediately
- ☐ Set up monitoring alerts
- ☐ Consider reducing promotion temporarily

- ☐ Inform collaborators about situation

Financial Assessment

- ☐ Calculate unpaid royalties
- ☐ Document penalty fees charged
- ☐ Assess total financial impact
- ☐ Explore alternative revenue streams
- ☐ Consider legal consultation if significant

Financial Impact: - Unpaid royalties: €/£ __ - *Penalty fees:* €/£ __ - Total loss: €/£ ____



PREVENTION FOR FUTURE

Service Vetting Checklist

- ☐ Research service reputation thoroughly
- ☐ Check Reddit/forum discussions
- ☐ Request and contact references
- ☐ Understand their exact methods
- ☐ Start with small test campaigns
- ☐ Avoid guaranteed stream promises

Monitoring Setup

- ☐ Configure analytics alerts
- ☐ Set up playlist tracking
- ☐ Monitor completion rates
- ☐ Track geographic patterns
- ☐ Document all promotional activities

Monitoring Tools Setup: - ☐ Spotify for Artists alerts - ☐ Chartmetric account - ☐ Songstats monitoring - ☐ Other: _____

ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

Distributor Support

DistroKid: support@distrokid.com **TuneCore:** support@tunecore.com

CD Baby: support@cdbaby.com **Other:** _____

Analytics Tools

Chartmetric: chartmetric.com **Songstats:** songstats.com **Spotify for Artists:** artists.spotify.com

Legal Resources (if needed)

Entertainment Lawyer: _____ **Legal Aid:** _____

RECOVERY ACTIONS

Rebuilding Strategy

- ☐ Focus on genuine fan engagement
- ☐ Create organic discovery content
- ☐ Build email list and social following
- ☐ Develop industry relationships
- ☐ Plan new release strategy

Platform Diversification

- ☐ Strengthen YouTube Music presence
- ☐ Focus on Apple Music growth
- ☐ Explore Beatport opportunities
- ☐ Build Bandcamp following

- ☐ Develop direct fan sales
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CASE NOTES

Date Issue Discovered: _____

Suspected Cause:

Actions Taken:

Distributor Response:

Resolution/Outcome:

Lessons Learned:



REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Likely Outcomes

- ☐ Streams probably won't be restored
- ☐ Process takes weeks/months
- ☐ Can prevent future issues
- ☐ Can protect other releases
- ☐ May negotiate fee reductions

Success Metrics

- ☐ Prevented additional violations
- ☐ Maintained distributor relationship

- [] Identified problematic sources
 - [] Improved monitoring systems
 - [] Built stronger promotion strategy
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Remember: This is not career-ending. Many successful artists have faced similar challenges and emerged stronger with better systems and practices.

Next Steps: Focus on legitimate growth, genuine fan engagement, and building a sustainable, diversified music career.



This checklist is provided by NexaTunes - structured support for independent releases.

Download more resources at blog.nexatunes.com

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