



Share Splits – Protocols and Practices

There Are No Rules

Every band is different. There are no set rules for splitting shares between band members and co-writers. There are a number of general practices that many bands follow, however every writing situation is different.

This is Business

Although your band may contain friends and family members – it is important to remember that you are also business partners.

It's a Serious Decision

You take your career as a musician seriously. Make sure that you make all business decisions just as seriously.

Some Tips on Share Splitting:

- Copyright should reflect creation
- Decide how shares are to be split as early in your writing process as possible
- You may want to consult with an entertainment lawyer
- Remember – the maximum share for a publisher is 50%
- Ask other bands / writers what has worked for them
- Refer to the Copyright Act sections pertaining to ownership
- Put it in writing – an agreement among band members / co-writers should be drafted and signed by everyone
- All shareholders, regardless of the size of the share, have an equal voice when deciding how a work will be exploited

If you have any questions about this or any other topic, contact SOCAN at 1-866-30.SOCAN or go to socan.ca