LEGAL KITTY™ CHEAT SHEET

Your Songs & Brand Before "I Do"

How marriage can touch the catalog, the channel and the brand.

KEY PRINCIPLES

1 **Nine states split marital property as community.**
Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin. The rest use equitable distribution. Know yours.

2 **Before the wedding, it's generally yours.**
In California, premarital property and its rents, issues and profits stay separate (§770). Not everywhere: in Idaho, Louisiana, Texas and Wisconsin, that income is generally community.

3 **During the marriage, IP can be "ours."**
California: what you acquire while married there is community property (§760). Worth (1987) treated copyrights created during marriage that way.

4 **Decide control, not just money.**
Even if value is split, settle who approves licenses and sales. In California a prenup needs seven days between the final version and signing.

KEY EXAMPLES

Real cases and laws, from the guide

Cal. Fam. Code §770
Separate property

Songs written before the wedding, and what they earn, stay yours in California.

FOR YOU **Creation dates can be worth millions.**

In re Marriage of Worth
Cal. Ct. App. 1987

Copyrights in works created during the marriage were treated as community property.

FOR YOU **Songs written while married can be shared.**

Cal. Fam. Code §1615
Prenup rules

Seven days between the final agreement and signing; your own lawyer, or a separate signed waiver.

FOR YOU **Start the prenup early, not wedding week.**

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KEY CLAUSES

Red flag, green flag

Push back on the red. Ask for the green.

	RED FLAG · PUSH BACK	GREEN FLAG · ASK FOR
FUTURE IP	Silent on songs written after the wedding	Future IP classified in the prenup
GROWTH	Premarital catalog growth left undefined	How premarital IP growth is treated
CONTROL	Value split, control never discussed	Who approves licenses and sales
RECORDS	No creation-date proof	Session files, registrations, release dates kept
BUYOUT	No exit number	A buyout formula
LAWYERS	One lawyer for both of you	Each partner has their own lawyer

Condensed from the CHANDELIER guide. Teaching examples, not forms.

GO DEEPER

CHANDELIER, the free web guide to IP before marriage.
Free at legalkitty.com/guides

Full guide: DM **CHANDELIER**
This sheet: DM **VOWS**

Don't sign it till you read it.

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