



Happy Birthday to All [Reprise]

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The Settlement Terms

As part of the settlement terms, Warner/Chappell will pay \$14 million. One third of the settlement fund will go to the plaintiff's attorney to pay for his fees. The rest will be divided among qualifying class action members. Furthermore, the settlement stipulates that a judge will declare the song to be in the public domain. Finally, Warner/Chappell agrees not to appeal the case any further.

A lump-sum payment (and agreement to not reopen the case) is typical for a settlement, but a judge's declaration is unique. In part, Warner/Chappell agreed to these terms to avoid a trial that would parse out how much it owed thousands of people, films, plays and television programs that it had previously charged for using the song.

Be sure to remind your waiters of this historic settlement the next time you want to embarrass a sibling at his or her birthday dinner.

Categories

Entertainment & Media

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