

Case z001: Lo-Fang vs. Studio Zentral (Redacted Timeline – April 9, 2025)

I. Initial Licensing Request & Conditional Approval

May 8, 2024

- JH (Studio Zentral Representative) requests to license "You're the Friend I Need" for €600 for one end credit scene in Schwarze Früchte with limited usage.
- Lo-Fang conditionally approves the use, expressing financial hardship and openness to a larger fee
- JH confirms contract drafting and requests song credit info

May 9–31, 2024

- Lo-Fang shares credit info and payment instructions
- After initial hesitation, JH confirms payment will occur before signing
- May 31: €600 payment received

II. Contract Dispute & Rejection of Expanded Terms

Sept 30, 2024

- JH sends contract including broad, future-proof usage rights
- Admits expansion: "Due to a misunderstanding, they were not listed specifically..."

Oct 7, 2024

- Lo-Fang explicitly rejects expanded contract and restates original terms

Oct 8 – Feb 21, 2025

- KJ (Studio Zentral Coordinator) sends repeated follow-ups requesting signature
- Lo-Fang does not sign

III. Unauthorized Use & GEMA Registration

Feb 25 – Mar 19, 2025

- JH contacts Lo-Fang via Instagram
- Admits continued interest in expanded contract
- Admits GEMA registration of show using Lo-Fang's music without signed contract

IV. Legal Escalation

Mar 20, 2025

- Lo-Fang sends legal settlement demand based on prior sync precedent, factoring in unauthorized usage and confidentiality breach. Notes possible GEMA and ASCAP filings

Mar 21–24, 2025

- Invoice #1002 sent with timestamped delivery confirmation
- Legal notice Dropbox launched
- Dr. Graef joins correspondence

Mar 24, 2025

- Final warning issued regarding DMCA takedowns and royalty concerns
- Dr. Graef requests Lo-Fang's phone number

Mar 26, 2025

- ASCAP Inquiry ID: 00742184 opened
- Lo-Fang confirms no cue sheet found by ASCAP

Mar 27, 2025

- Dr. Graef sends letter to outdated address; Lo-Fang refuses delivery
- Dr. Graef responds: "You better govern yourself accordingly."

Mar 28, 2025

- Full timeline sent to Studio Zentral & Dr. Graef
- Confirms address error, restates rejection of expanded rights

V. Institutional Escalation

Mar 29–30, 2025

- Legal Addendums prepared:
 - Addendum I: Comparative sync rates (Chanel vs HBO)
 - Addendum II: Unauthorized rights expansion
- Request for GEMA oversight submitted to leadership

Mar 31, 2025

- Formal takedown requests sent to:
 - WDR Rundfunkrat
 - ARD Mediathek
 - Landesanstalt für Medien NRW
- Legal basis: §§ 97, 108 UrhG + GDPR Article 17

VI. Final Confirmations & Public Positioning

Apr 1, 2025

- ASCAP confirms no cue sheet submitted
- Final rebuttal sent to Dr. Graef requesting:
 - 1.Cue sheet details
 - 2.Confirmation of willful infringement

3. Use of correct legal address

Apr 2, 2025 – Libel Accusation

- Dr. Graef accuses Lo-Fang of defamation for contacting institutions like ARD, WDR, GEMA
- Threatens damages for libel/slander and obstruction
- Sends backdated contract for signing "to put matter to rest"

Apr 3-4, 2025

- Studio Zentral issues a formal cease and desist against future use of the song
- Penalty of €5,100 per infringement added
- Episode 7 removed from ARD Mediathek

Apr 7, 2025

- Dr. Graef sends a closing letter:
 - Reaffirms intent to pursue damages
 - Denies wrongdoing despite C&D
 - Declares intent to end all discussion

Apr 9, 2025 – ASCAP & Industry Confirmation

- ASCAP formally acknowledges unauthorized usage (Inquiry #00743714):
 - Confirms no cue sheet was submitted for the production
 - Verifies no foreign income received from any territory for the title
 - Acknowledges this presents as a copyright/unauthorized use dispute
- Senior executive at major music publishing group provides industry standard valuation for Lo-Fang's song "You're the Friend I Need" plus end credits usage:
 - US TV sync rights: \$12,500-\$15,000 per side (all media, worldwide, in perpetuity)
 - UK TV sync rights: £5,000-£8,000 per side (all media, worldwide, in perpetuity)
 - Additional 50% for end credits use
- Formal notice sent to GEMA, ASCAP International, and Dr. Graef requesting:
 - Verification of cue sheet submission status
 - Copies of cue sheets if they exist
 - Written confirmation if they do not exist
 - Clarification of any alternate registrations
 - Request for streaming data and associated usage reports, with a 5-business-day deadline

VII. Present Status

- Episode 7 remains down from ARD Mediathek
- Lo-Fang maintains a growing public legal archive at StudioZentral.org, committed to transparency and artist protection