



SAG-AFTRA
YOUR VOICE IN MUSIC

Residuals for Singers - Theatrical, TV and New Media



What is a residual? Residuals are additional compensation paid to performers when a production is shown beyond the original use covered by the initial compensation. For example, for a theatrical film, residuals would be triggered once it is released anywhere other than theaters, such as on DVD, TV and new media. Residuals are bargained as part of SAG-AFTRA's collective bargaining agreements.

Note that for theatrical, television and new media, residuals are sent to SAG-AFTRA first and then distributed to the performer. For commercials, use payments are mailed directly to the performer or their agent (whichever is indicated on the employment contract) from the payroll company.

When are residuals triggered? Residuals are not due for the initial release of a production in the market for which it was produced. Residuals are only due when a production is released beyond the original market for which it was intended, or reruns beyond the original broadcast date or initial exhibition window.

Here are some examples of when residuals would be triggered:

- If made for theatrical exhibition — distribution on DVD, on-demand/pay per view, on TV and new media (streaming, subscription on-demand, electronic sell-through).
- If made for network television or basic cable exhibition, starting with the second broadcast of the program in the U.S./Canada (some

exceptions apply) or any other exhibition, such as a move over to a different channel or to new media.

- If new media, for extended exhibitions in new media depending on the budget and/or terms of the agreement and for any move over to traditional media (TV, DVD, etc.)
- If a commercial, use payments must be postmarked 15 business days from first use.

Who receives residuals? To be eligible, you must be a principal performer employed under a SAG-AFTRA contract and some portion of the individual's performance, such as image or voice, must remain in the final version being released. Both on-camera and off-camera singers may be eligible to receive residuals subject to the criteria above being met.

When are residuals due? For commercials, there are various types of use (i.e. Class A, cable, wildspot, dealer, internet) that are paid to either the performer and/or their agent. Residuals, also known as use payments, must be postmarked 15 business days from first use for each use type. Upgrade use payments are due 15 business days from the end of the 13-week cycle, while Class A uses that occur within a single week Monday through Sunday shall be made 15 business days at the end of such week.

For theatrical, television and new media, residuals are first paid to SAG-AFTRA and then distributed to performers. When residuals are due to SAG-AFTRA varies depending on the market and terms the original production was produced for, but generally speaking:

If made for television then released to:

- Network Prime Time: Thirty days after each re-air date. Please note: Network TV is only ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC.
- Non-Prime Time Network: Thirty days after each re-air date.
- Syndication: Quarterly when the producer receives revenue, or if the production is made for syndication, then four months after each re-air date.
- Foreign Free TV: Due within six months of first foreign telecast.
- Basic Cable: Quarterly when the producer receives revenue, or if the production is made for basic cable, then four months after each re-air date.
- Other Media Markets (Pay Television, Home Video, Streaming Video on Demand Services, Digital Download): Four months after initial exhibition, then quarterly when the producer receives revenue.

If made for theatrical then released to:

- Network Prime Time: Thirty days after initial broadcast, then quarterly when the producer receives revenue thereafter.
- Free TV, Non-Network (Syndication, Basic Cable): Four months after initial broadcast, then quarterly when the producer receives revenue.
- Other Media Markets (Pay Television, Home Video, Streaming Video on Demand Services, Digital Download): Four months after initial exhibition, then quarterly when the producer receives revenue.

The quarterly residuals schedule is the timeframe for which most gross receipts residuals are due or where referenced above after the initial payments.

Most residuals are due 60 days following the end of each calendar quarter as follows:

- 1st Quarter: January 1 - March 31, residuals due by May 31.

- 2nd Quarter: April 1 - June 30, residuals due by August 30.
- 3rd Quarter: July 1 - September 30, residuals due by November 30.
- 4th Quarter: October 1 - December 31, residuals due by March 1.

Once SAG-AFTRA receives the residuals payments, they are then distributed to performers within 30-60 days.

To track your residuals payments, log into your SAG-AFTRA account at sagaftra.org and select "residuals portal."

When will I receive residuals payment?

For commercials, contractually, the producer has 15 business days from first use to postmark payment to the performer or their agent, depending on who is listed on the performer's employment contract. Factoring time for mail delivery, performers should receive their use payments within a month of when their commercial begins airing.

For theatrical, television and new media, it generally takes 30-60 days from the time SAG-AFTRA receives residuals payments from the production company to process and mail out payments.

To track your residuals payments, log into your SAG-AFTRA account at sagaftra.org and select "residuals portal."

To make a residuals claim easier:

- Always keep records such as pay stubs, contracts, contractor reports, etc.
- Pay attention to when your production is released and contact SAG-AFTRA if you do not receive your residuals payment within six months.
- Watch the production when it is released and note details on the scene you appeared in or in which you can be heard.

To make a residuals claim, call the Residuals Department at (323) 549-6507 or email residualsmail@sagaftra.org.