



SEARCH...

+474k +308k +6k

STYLE | SNEAKERS | ART+DESIGN | CITY GUIDE | TECH | RIDES | MUSIC | POP CULTURE | SPORTS | GIRLS | VIDEO GAMES | LATEST | LISTS

MUSIC Marvin Gaye's Family Countersues Robin Thicke Over "Blurred Lines"

# Marvin Gaye's Family Countersues Robin Thicke Over "Blurred Lines"

BY [KYLE KRAMER](#) | OCT 30, 2013 | 11:26 PM | [PERMLINK](#)

Like Tweet



Image via [HelloBeautiful.com](#)

The line-blurring in the legal entanglement between **Robin Thicke** and **Marvin Gaye's** family over the copyright to "Blurred Lines" continues. After claims from Gaye's children that "Blurred Lines" ripped off Gaye's 1977 song "Got To Give It Up," Thicke, along with fellow songwriters **Clifford Harris (T.I.)** and **Pharrell Williams**, [sued the family as a pre-emptive measure](#). While critics had pointed out the similarity and Thicke had acknowledged Gaye's influence, the men pointed out in their suit that "being reminiscent of a 'sound' is not copyright infringement."

As anticipated, children Frankie Gaye and Nona Gaye have decided to sue back. [According to The Hollywood Reporter](#), the Gaye family is suing not only over the "Got To Give It Up"/"Blurred Lines" similarities, but also over a more broadly defined "Marvin Gaye fixation" on Thicke's part. They claim that his song "[Love After War](#)" also infringes upon the copyright of Gaye's "[After The Dance](#)."

Their suit quotes multiple critics who have made the comparison between "Got To Give It Up" and "Blurred Lines," and it also [draws on the testimony of musicologist Judith Finell](#), who claims that the two songs share a "constellation of eight substantially similar features"—including the main phrase, hook, keyboard parts, bass lines and percussion—in effect "far surpassing the similarities that might result from attempts to evoke an 'era' of music or a shared genre."

From there, though, things get even more complicated. The family is also suing EMI April, the Sony/ATV subsidiary that owns the publishing rights to both songs and, therefore, has an interest on both sides of the case. The Gayes are claiming that EMI failed to adequately protect their copyright and instead lent its support to Thicke, in what constitutes a breach of contract.

They also suggest that the publishing company attempted to discredit and intimidate them, claiming that the chairman of EMI, Martin N. Bandier, contacted the family and told them they were "killing the goose that laid the golden egg" by

He reportedly accused the suit of damaging the song's chances to win a VMA, as well as the [selectism](#) Brooks C17 Cambium Rubber and Cotton Bike Sadd [SHARE](#)

SUBSCRIBE

Most Popular



[Iggy Azalea in Super 8](#)



[Diddy's Revolt on The Rise | Complex Interview](#)



[Interview | Lucius at SXSW](#)



[Ice Cube - "It Was a Good Day" | Magnum Opus](#)



[Bajofondo | SXSW 13'](#)

VIEW MORE AT: [COMPLEX.COM/TV](#)

## MOST POPULAR: MUSIC



[We've Got Your Halloween Costume Taken Care Of: Rapper/Animal Hybrids](#)



[Marc Ecko Talks About Diddy, Coming Up, and His New Book on The Comat Jack Show](#)



[Listen: Fredo Santana f/ Kendrick Lamar "Jealous"](#)



[Watch Kanye West Freestyle and Talk About His Wedding, Unreleased "Yeezus" Songs, and More With Power 106](#)

EDITOR'S PICK



Grammy for Song of the Year.

"Not only did EMI fail to bring this action, which is necessary to carry out EMI's duties to protect the Gaye Family's copyrights," the countersuit states, "EMI attempted to dissuade the Gaye Family from pursuing this action by repeated threats and tactics to intimidate the Gaye Family and its representatives."

As a penalty, the Gayes have demanded that EMI turn over the profits from "Blurred Lines" and give up the rights to Gaye's catalog. Sony/ATV was dismissive of the claims that it had failed the family, and it released the following statement:

"We take our role in protecting the works of all of our songwriters from infringement very seriously. And while we very much treasure the works of Marvin Gaye and our relationship with the Gaye family, we regret that they have been ill advised in this matter."

Read the whole countersuit [here](#).

[via [THR](#); [NYT](#)]

**RELATED: Robin Thicke Sets Record For Longest No. 1 on Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs Chart**  
**RELATED: This Headline Is Not Written Backwards: Robin Thicke Sues Marvin Gaye's Estate Over "Blurred Lines"**

STAY CONNECTED WITH **COMPLEX MUSIC** [Like](#) 13k [Follow](#) 63.8K followers

Tags: [robin-thicke](#), [marvin-gaye](#), [t.i.](#), [pharrell](#)



Miley Cyrus Dressed Up as Lil Kim For Halloween



LINKS WE LIKE



PEPSI PULSE  
Song of the Day: U.S. Girls "Overtime"



SUPERGLUED  
Vampire Weekend Goes From Playing Cakeshop to Barclays Center



DO ANDROIDS DANCE  
Todd Terry Made a Trap Album



PIGEONS & PLANES  
Watch Videos of Famous Musicians Before They Got Famous



SUPERGLUED  
Video: Danny Brown (AKA Black Brad Pitt) Plays NYU



FOUR PINS  
The Myth Of "IDGAF"



Complex Magazine

[Like](#)

477,823 people like Complex Magazine.



Facebook social plugin

RELATED ARTICLES:



Robin Thicke Wrote, Directed, and Starred in a Short Film Called "Mercy"



There Is a Sculpture of Miley Cyrus Twerking on Robin Thicke



Robin Thicke Talks Miley Cyrus and MTV Video Music Awards Performance With Oprah



GWAR Reads A Very NSFW Version of "Goodnight Moon" and It's Perfect [Pigeons&Planes](#)



PREMIERE: River Tiber - "The City (KwikFiks Remix)" [Doandroidsdance.com](#)

TRENDING ARTICLES:



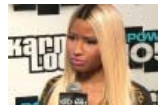
25 Retro Sneakers We'd Like to See Make an NBA Appearance This Season



Nicki Minaj: "Drake Can Do What Drake Do but Nicki Minaj Is a Whole Different Person."



Police Respond to Reports of Gunfire at LAX



Nicki Minaj Finally Responds to Kendrick Lamar's "Control" Verse: "I'm the Queen of New York and I'm the King of New York"



Album Stream: MellowHigh - "MellowHigh" [Pigeons&Planes](#)

OLDER

James Blake Wins UK's Mercury Prize

MUSIC

NEWER

You Can Now Buy Wine From E-40's Winery

MOST POPULAR: COMPLEX.COM

Why Your October Wasn't Red

Tech 9: Stories From the Week You Need To Read Right Now

10 Great Used Sports Cars for Less Than \$10,000

The 10 Most Traumatizing Moments on "The Walking Dead"

The 50 Most Brutal Hits in NFL History