

The Week Potential Lawsuits Rained on Sirius

Why Everyone and Their Mothers Should Know Basic Legal Terms

When Sirius, a fast-growing software startup, decided to 1) _____ their own product to the market, everyone was excited. The team 2) _____ to this new project went through onboarding as they have done a thousand times before: they 3) _____ and signed their 4) _____, and 5) _____ that covered all the 6) _____ they would be handling. Sirius's CTO 7) _____ the team read the 8) _____. "Trust me," he said, "this stuff matters more than the framework you're using." He wasn't wrong.

on the other side of the building

Potential Lawsuit #1: License Incidents

manages to weather the storm

The developer team (we will not 9) _____ anyone out) integrated a third-party library without reviewing the 10) _____. The library was released 11) _____ by the GPL (General Public License), which meant any 12) _____—including Sirius's entire new product—would also need to be open-source.

That was a problem: Sirius's 13) _____ couldn't 14) _____ be released under those terms. Suddenly, 15) _____ for Sirius as they faced a 16) _____. Meanwhile, 17) _____, the design team 18) _____ that a set of icons they had added to the product were only allowed for personal use—not for 19) _____. This mistake meant the company could be 20) _____ if the icons' owner discovered the issue.

Potential Lawsuit #2: Privacy Issues

dark clouds were gathering

when it rains, it pours

21) _____. A server misconfiguration 22) _____ customer 23) _____ for several minutes. No hackers accessed the data, but under 24) _____, even 25) _____ exposure counts as a 26) _____.

If the company didn't 27) _____ the incident in 72 hours, they could be held 28) _____ for failing to maintain proper 29) _____.

One product manager suggested 30) _____, but Sirius's legal counsel warned that a 31) _____ could report them—and whistleblowers are legally protected. Moreover, they suggested that speaking up was the right thing to do. Plus, it could save the company from serious legal consequences.

morale started to cloud over

throw the book at someone

by the book

The Outcome

the tension in the air was palpable

put out all fires

sweeping it under the rug

After a very tense week, Sirius's product team 32) _____ and avoided the 33) _____. When the week was over, 34) _____. Some people were terrified they would get 35) _____, but instead, everyone got assigned 36) _____. 37) _____. At the same time, every department had to review and update their 38) _____.

"I'm not going to 39) _____ for a mistake," the CEO said, "but we will do everything 40) _____ from now on. These issues forced our staff to realize that making apps isn't just technical work. It's legal work too. You can't 41) _____ software without understanding the laws around it."