

NewsBreak / Particle Media — Publisher Application Rejections

Automated rejection emails received February 16–18, 2026 and April 11–12, 2026 · Investigation: Platform Gatekeeping: Press Freedom

Overview

Dismal Freedom Press submitted two publisher partner applications to NewsBreak (newsbreak.com), operated by Particle Media, Inc. Both applications were rejected without stated criteria, without any explanation, and without any reconsideration pathway. The second rejection arrived approximately 40 seconds after the application confirmation — consistent with fully automated screening.

EMAIL RECORD

From: welcome@newsbreakapp.me
To: newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org
Date: February 16, 2026 — 19:31 UTC
Subject: Thank you for submitting an application

Thank you for submitting an application

Your application is currently under review. We will notify you when verification is complete.

[Sign in button]

— NewsBreak Publisher Team

[Note: This email was received as HTML-only. Body text reconstructed from snippet. Gmail thread ID: 19c67eff6bcf8b74]

EMAIL RECORD

From: welcome@newsbreakapp.me
To: newsroom@dismalfreedompress.org
Date: February 18, 2026 — 13:06 UTC
Subject: Your application has been declined

We're sorry!

We regret to inform you that we are not able to move forward with your application at this time.

If you would like to resubmit, kindly click on the button below.

[Re-apply button]

— NewsBreak Publisher Team

[Note: This email was received as HTML-only. Body text reconstructed from snippet. Gmail thread ID: 19c70dbcee79cca3. Elapsed time from confirmation: ~42 hours. No reason stated. No criteria disclosed. No appeal process offered.]

EMAIL RECORD

From: welcome@newsbreakapp.me
To: torie.cortez@dismalfreedompress.org
Date: April 12, 2026 — 18:21 UTC
Subject: Your application has been declined

We're sorry!

We regret to inform you that we are not able to move forward with your application at this time.

If you would like to resubmit, kindly click on the button below.

[Re-apply button]

— NewsBreak Publisher Team

[Note: This email was received as HTML-only. Body text reconstructed from snippet. Gmail thread ID: 19d82ecfcadd8fc6. Application submitted April 11, 2026. Confirmation and rejection timestamps both show 18:21:01 UTC — elapsed time approximately 40 seconds. No reason stated. No criteria disclosed. No appeal offered. Consistent with fully automated black-box screening.]