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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

Federal Trade Commission,
Plaintiff,
vs.
Money Now Funding, LLC, et al.,
Defendants.

No. CV-13-01583-PHX-ROS

**FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER FOR
PERMANENT INJUNCTION AND
EQUITABLE MONETARY JUDGMENT
AS TO THE CORPORATE
DEFENDANTS**

Plaintiff, the Federal Trade Commission (“Commission” or “FTC”), filed its Complaint for Permanent Injunction and Other Equitable Relief (Doc. 3), subsequently amended by the First Amended Complaint for Permanent Injunction and Other Equitable Relief (Doc. 194) (as amended, the “Complaint”), pursuant to Sections 13(b) and 19 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (“FTC Act”), 15 U.S.C. §§ 53(b) & 57b. In sum, the FTC alleged that the defendants engaged in a nationwide scheme to defraud consumers through a maze of corporate entities that operated as a common enterprise. The FTC subsequently filed a Motion for Default Judgment against Defendants Money Now Funding, LLC, a/k/a Money Now Funded, a/k/a Cash4Businesses, a/k/a CashFourBusinesses, a/k/a Green Merchant Funding, a/k/a Nationwide Lending, Rose Marketing, LLC, DePaola Marketing, LLC, Affiliate Marketing Group, LLC, Legal Doxs, LLC, a/k/a First Business, LLC, US Doc Assist, LLC, a/k/a First Business, LLC, Affinity Technologies, LLC, Marketing Expert Solutions, LLC, Strategic Media

1 Advertising, LLC, Global Network Marketing, LLC, Precise Payroll Services, LLC (the
2 “Corporate Defendants”) on all counts of the First Amended Complaint.

3 The Corporate Defendants were served with the Complaint in this action (Docs.
4 19-26 & 217-218), but have not opposed, defended, or answered the Complaint (Docs.
5 78, 85, 125, 131, 230, & 232). Furthermore, the Complaint is well pled and the relief
6 sought in the Complaint is reflected in the proposed order submitted with the Motion.
7 Having considered the Complaint, memorandum of law and exhibits, and other evidence
8 filed in this matter, the Court granted the Commission’s Motion for Default Judgment
9 against the Corporate Defendants (Doc. 356) and enters this judgment and order as
10 follows.

11 FINDINGS

12 1. This is an action by the Commission instituted under Sections 13(b) and 19
13 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 53(b) and 57b, and the Telemarketing Act, 15 U.S.C.
14 §§ 6101-6108. The Commission has authority to seek the relief contained herein.

15 2. The Commission’s Complaint states a claim upon which relief may be
16 granted under Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, the FTC’s trade regulation rule
17 entitled “Disclosure Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Business Opportunities”
18 (“Business Opportunity Rule” or “Rule”), 16 C.F.R. Part 437, as amended, and the
19 “Telemarketing Sales Rule” (“TSR”), 16 C.F.R. Part 310.

20 3. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331,
21 1337(a), and 1345, 15 U.S.C. §§ 45(a), 53(b), 57b, 6102(c), and 6105(b).

22 4. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c), and 15
23 U.S.C. § 53(b).

24 5. The activities of the Corporate Defendants as alleged in the Commission’s
25 Complaint are in or affecting commerce, as “commerce” is defined in Section 4 of the
26 FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 44.

27 6. By virtue of the Court’s decision regarding the FTC’s Motion for Default
28 Judgment, as well as the FTC’s Motion for Summary Judgment, the Corporate

1 Defendants are liable for injunctive and equitable monetary relief for violations of
2 Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, the Business Opportunity Rule, and the TSR.

3 7. This Court previously ruled that numerous corporate entities are successors,
4 assigns, affiliates, subsidiaries, divisions, or telephone sales or customer service
5 operations of the Defendants in receivership (Docs. 124 & 129). These entities are Five
6 Star Commerce, LLC, Aggressive Advertising Associates, LLC, Aflac Assist, LLC,
7 AflacAssist.com, LLC, Alac Assist, LLC, AlacAssist.com, LLC, Franklin Financial
8 Solutions, Express Merchant Network, LLC, Merchant Services Bureau, LLC, Assisting
9 US Jobs.com, LLC, US Job Assistance, LLC, Merchant Care, LLC, Lucky Day, LLC,
10 QuickStart MP, LLC, US Business Assistance, LLC, US Biz Assist, LLC, First Business,
11 LLC, Zoom Doxs, LLC, Zoom Docxs, LLC, Pay Plus One, LLC, Creative Management,
12 LLC, A Plus Fulfillment, LLC, Advanced Advertising Solutions, LLC, Relentless
13 Shopping, LLC, Dynasty Marketing, LLC, Dollarwisellc.com, LLC, Management DW,
14 LLC, GWC Processing, LLC, Management AA, LLC, Transactions AA, LLC, Divine
15 Clientele, LLC, Advertising and Marketing, LLC, All in One Advertising, LLC, One
16 Time Media, LLC, Far Star Advertising, LLC, Positive Strategies, LLC, Business Start
17 Up, LLC, Strategic Media Advertising, LLC, Nationwide Lending, and Green Merchant
18 Funding.

19 8. Entry of this order is in the public interest.

20 DEFINITIONS

21 For the purpose of this Order, the following definitions shall apply.

- 22 1. **“Business Opportunity”** means a commercial arrangement in which:
- 23 a) A Business Opportunity Seller solicits a prospective purchaser to
 - 24 enter into a New Business;
 - 25 b) The prospective purchaser makes a Required Payment; and
 - 26 c) The Business Opportunity Seller, expressly or by implication, orally
 - 27 or in writing, represents that the Business Opportunity Seller or one
 - 28 or more Designated Persons will:

- 1 i. Provide Locations for the use or operation of equipment,
2 displays, vending machines, or similar devices, owned,
3 leased, controlled, or paid for by the purchaser; or
- 4 ii. Provide Outlets, Accounts, or Customers, including, but not
5 limited to, Internet outlets, accounts, or customers, for the
6 purchaser's goods or services; or
- 7 iii. Buy back any or all of the goods or services that the
8 purchaser makes, produces, fabricates, grows, breeds,
9 modifies, or provides, including but not limited to providing
10 payment for such services as, for example, stuffing envelopes
11 from the purchaser's home.

12 2. **“Business Opportunity Rule”** means the FTC Rule entitled “Disclosure
13 Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Business Opportunities,” 16 C.F.R. Part 437,
14 as amended.

15 3. **“Business Opportunity Seller”** means a Person who offers for sale or sells
16 a business opportunity.

17 4. **“Corporate Defendants”** means Money Now Funding, LLC, a/k/a Money
18 Now Funded, a/k/a Cash4Businesses, a/k/a CashFourBusinesses, a/k/a Green Merchant
19 Funding, a/k/a Nationwide Lending, Rose Marketing, LLC, DePaola Marketing, LLC,
20 Affiliate Marketing Group, LLC, Legal Doxs, LLC, a/k/a First Business, LLC, US Doc
21 Assist, LLC, a/k/a First Business, LLC, Affinity Technologies, LLC, Marketing Expert
22 Solutions, LLC, Strategic Media Advertising, LLC, Global Network Marketing, LLC,
23 Precise Payroll Services, LLC, and their successors and assigns.

24 5. **“Defendants”** means the Individual Defendants and Corporate Defendants,
25 individually, collectively, or in any combination.

26 6. **“Designated Person”** means any Person, other than the Business
27 Opportunity Seller, whose goods or services the Business Opportunity Seller suggests,
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1 recommends, or requires that the purchaser use in establishing or operating a New
2 Business.

3 7. **“Individual Defendants”** means Lukeroy K. Rose, a/k/a Luke Rose,
4 Cordell Bess, Cynthia Miller, a/k/a Cynthia Metcalf, Solana DePaola, Jennifer Beckman,
5 William D. Claspell, a/k/a Bill Claspell, Richard Frost, Dino Mitchell, Clinton Rackley,
6 Lance Himes, a/k/a Lance R. Himes, a/k/a Raymond L. Himes, Leary Darling, Donna F.
7 Duckett, also d/b/a D&D Marketing Solutions, Della Frost, also d/b/a Zoom Docs,
8 Christopher Grimes, also d/b/a Elite Marketing Strategies, Alannah M. Harre, also d/b/a
9 National Marketing Group, Ronald W. Hobbs, a/k/a Ron Hobbs, also d/b/a Ron Hobbs &
10 Associates, Janine Lilly, also d/b/a Doc Assistant, Michael McIntyre, also d/b/a McIntyre
11 Marketing, Benny Montgomery, also d/b/a Montgomery Marketing, Virginia Rios, also
12 d/b/a V&R Marketing Solutions and Kendrick Thomas, also d/b/a KT Advertising.

13 8. **“National Do Not Call Registry”** means the registry of telephone
14 numbers maintained by the FTC, pursuant to the Telemarketing Sales Rule, 16 C.F.R.
15 § 310.4(b)(1)(iii)(B), of Persons who do not wish to receive Outbound Telephone Calls to
16 induce the purchase of goods or services.

17 9. **“New Business”** means a business in which the prospective purchaser is
18 not currently engaged, or a new line or type of business.

19 10. **“Outbound Telephone Call”** means a telephone call initiated by a
20 Telemarketer to induce the purchase of goods or services or to solicit a charitable
21 contribution.

22 11. **“Person”** means a natural person, organization, or other legal entity,
23 including a corporation, partnership, proprietorship, association, cooperative, government
24 or governmental subdivision or agency, or any other group or combination acting as an
25 entity.

26 12. **“Provide Locations, Outlets, Accounts, or Customers”** means to furnish
27 a prospective purchaser with existing or potential locations, outlets, accounts, or
28 customers; requiring, recommending, or suggesting one or more locations or lead

1 generation companies; providing a list of locator or lead generating companies; collecting
2 a fee on behalf of one or more locators or lead generating companies; offering to furnish
3 a list of locations; or otherwise assisting the prospective purchaser in obtaining his or her
4 own locations, outlets, accounts, or customers.

5 13. **“Receiver”** means Peter S. Davis of Simon Consulting, LLC, the
6 permanent receiver appointed by this Court in Section XIII of the August 19, 2013
7 Preliminary Injunction Order (Doc. 56) and any deputy receivers named by the
8 permanent receiver.

9 14. **“Receivership Entities”** means the Corporate Defendants and the entities
10 put into Receivership pursuant to the Court’s Orders granting the Receiver’s Petitions 4
11 and 5 (Docs. 124 & 129), namely: Five Star Commerce, LLC, Aggressive Advertising
12 Associates, LLC, Aflac Assist, LLC, AflacAssist.com, LLC, Alac Assist, LLC,
13 AlacAssist.com, LLC, Franklin Financial Solutions, Express Merchant Network, LLC,
14 Merchant Services Bureau, LLC, Assisting US Jobs.com, LLC, US Job Assistance, LLC,
15 Merchant Care, LLC, Lucky Day, LLC, QuickStart MP, LLC, US Business Assistance,
16 LLC, US Biz Assist, LLC, First Business, LLC, Zoom Doxs, LLC, Zoom Docxs, LLC,
17 Pay Plus One, LLC, Creative Management, LLC, A Plus Fulfillment, LLC, Advanced
18 Advertising Solutions, LLC, Relentless Shopping, LLC, Dynasty Marketing, LLC,
19 Dollarwisellc.com, LLC, Management DW, LLC, GWC Processing, LLC, Management
20 AA, LLC, Transactions AA, LLC, Divine Clientele, LLC, Advertising and Marketing,
21 LLC, All in One Advertising, LLC, One Time Media, LLC, Far Star Advertising, LLC,
22 Positive Strategies, LLC, Business Start Up, LLC, Nationwide Lending, and Green
23 Merchant Funding.

24 15. **“Required Payment”** means all consideration that the purchaser must pay
25 to the Business Opportunity Seller or an affiliate, either by contract or by practical
26 necessity, as a condition of obtaining or commencing operation of the Business
27 Opportunity. Such payment may be made directly or indirectly through a third party.
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1 social media promotion, search engine optimization, training, and business establishment
2 services.

3 **III.**

4 **Prohibition Against Misrepresentations**

5 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** the Corporate Defendants and their officers,
6 agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other Persons in active concert or participation
7 with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether acting directly or
8 indirectly, in connection with the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, or
9 sale of any products or services other than those banned by Sections I or II of this Order,
10 are **permanently restrained and enjoined from** misrepresenting or assisting others in
11 misrepresenting, expressly or by implication:

12 A. That the Corporate Defendants or any other Person offers, sells, or provides
13 loans or cash advances;

14 B. The amount of income, earnings, or profits that a Person may or is likely to
15 earn, or that other Persons have earned;

16 C. That the Corporate Defendants or any other Person will provide, locate, or
17 obtain leads containing the names or contact information of Persons potentially interested
18 in products or services that any Person purports to offer;

19 D. That the Corporate Defendants or any other Person will contact, sell, or
20 provide services to businesses consumers refer;

21 E. The total cost to purchase, receive, or use any products or services; or

22 F. Any material aspect of the performance, efficacy, nature, or central
23 characteristics of any product or service.

24 **IV.**

25 **Prohibition Against Violating the Telemarketing Sales Rule**

26 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** Legal Doxs, LLC, a/k/a First Business, LLC, US
27 Doc Assist, LLC, a/k/a First Business, LLC, Marketing Expert Solutions, LLC, their
28 successors and assigns, and their officers, agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other

1 Persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of
2 this Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with the Telemarketing of
3 any product or service, are **permanently restrained and enjoined from** engaging in
4 violations of the Telemarketing Sales Rule, 16 C.F.R. Part 310, a copy of which is
5 attached, including, but not limited to:

6 A. Initiating, or causing others to initiate, an Outbound Telephone Call (1) to a
7 person's telephone number on the National Do Not Call Registry or (2) to a person who
8 previously has stated that he or she does not wish to receive an Outbound Telephone Call
9 made by or on behalf of the Telemarketing Seller whose goods or services are being
10 offered;

11 B. Causing the telephone to ring or engaging persons in telephone
12 conversation repeatedly or continuously, with intent to annoy, abuse, or harass the person
13 at the called number;

14 C. Threatening, intimidating, or the using of profane or obscene language; or

15 D. Initiating Outbound Telephone Calls to a telephone number within a given
16 area code on behalf of a Telemarketing Seller who has not, either directly or through
17 another person, paid the required annual fee for access to the telephone numbers within
18 that area code that are included in the National Do Not Call Registry.

19 **V.**

20 **Prohibitions Related to the Sale and Marketing**
21 **of Business or Work-at-home Opportunities**

22 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** Defendant Marketing Expert Solutions, LLC,
23 its successors and assigns, and its officers, agents, employees, and attorneys, and all
24 other Persons in active concert or participation with it, who receive actual notice of this
25 Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with the advertising,
26 marketing, promotion, offering for sale, or sale of any Business Opportunity or Work-at-
27 home Opportunity, are **permanently restrained and enjoined from:**

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1 Affiliate Marketing Group, LLC, Affinity Technologies, LLC, Strategic Media
2 Advertising, LLC, Global Network Marketing, LLC, Precise Payroll Services, LLC, and
3 their successors and assigns as equitable monetary relief. Their liability for the judgment
4 shall be joint and several with any and all other Defendants against whom the Court may
5 enter judgment, jointly and severally, for equitable monetary relief.

6 B. Judgment in the amount of five million, five hundred ninety thousand,
7 eight hundred eighty-one dollars and fifteen cents (\$5,590,881.15) is entered in favor
8 of the Commission against Legal Doxs, LLC, a/k/a First Business, LLC, US Doc Assist,
9 LLC, a/k/a First Business, LLC, and their successors and assigns as equitable monetary
10 relief. Their liability for the judgment shall be joint and several with any and all other
11 Defendants against whom the Court may enter judgment, jointly and severally, for
12 equitable monetary relief.

13 C. All payments under this Order must be made by electronic fund transfer in
14 accordance with instructions provided by a representative of the Commission.

15 D. The Corporate Defendants' Taxpayer Identification Numbers (such as
16 Employer Identification Numbers), which the Corporate Defendants must submit to the
17 Commission, may be used for collecting and reporting on any delinquent amount arising
18 out of this Order, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. §7701.

19 E. All money paid to the Commission pursuant to this Order may be deposited
20 into a fund administered by the Commission or its designee to be used for equitable
21 relief, including consumer redress and any attendant expenses for the administration of
22 any redress fund. If a representative of the Commission decides that direct redress to
23 consumers is wholly or partially impracticable or money remains after redress is
24 completed, the Commission may apply any remaining money for such other equitable
25 relief (including consumer information remedies) as it determines to be reasonably
26 related to Defendants' practices alleged in the Complaint. Any money not used for such
27 equitable relief is to be deposited to the U.S. Treasury as disgorgement. The Corporate
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1 Defendants have no right to challenge any actions the Commission or its representatives
2 may take pursuant to this Subsection.

3 **VII.**

4 **Lifting of Asset Freeze**

5 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** the asset freeze set forth in the Preliminary
6 Injunction Orders (Docs. 56 & 229) entered by this Court on August 19, 2013 and April
7 28, 2014 is dissolved as to the Receivership Entities.

8 **VIII.**

9 **Customer Information**

10 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** the Corporate Defendants and their officers,
11 agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other Persons in active concert or participation
12 with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether acting directly or
13 indirectly, are **permanently restrained and enjoined from:**

14 A. Failing to provide sufficient customer information to enable the
15 Commission to efficiently administer consumer redress. If a representative of the
16 Commission requests in writing any information related to redress, the Corporate
17 Defendants must provide it, in the form prescribed by the Commission, within fourteen
18 (14) days.

19 B. Disclosing, using, or benefitting from customer information, including the
20 name, address, telephone number, email address, social security number, other identifying
21 information, or any data that enables access to a customer's account (including a credit
22 card, bank account, or other financial account), that any Defendant obtained prior to entry
23 of this Order; and

24 C. Failing to destroy such customer information in all forms in the Corporate
25 Defendants' possession, custody, or control within thirty (30) days after receipt of written
26 direction to do so from a representative of the Commission.

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1 C. From each individual or entity to which a Corporate Defendant delivered a
2 copy of this Order, they must obtain, within thirty (30) days, a signed and dated
3 acknowledgment of receipt of this Order.

4 **XI.**

5 **Compliance Reporting**

6 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** the Corporate Defendants make timely
7 submissions to the Commission as follows.

8 A. One year after entry of this Order, each Corporate Defendant must submit a
9 compliance report, sworn under penalty of perjury, which must:

- 10 1) Identify the primary physical, postal, and email address and
11 telephone number, as designated points of contact, which
12 representatives of the Commission may use to communicate with the
13 Defendant;
- 14 2) Identify all of that Defendant's businesses by all of their names,
15 telephone numbers, and physical, postal, email, and Internet
16 addresses;
- 17 3) Describe the activities of each business, including the goods and
18 services offered, the means of advertising, marketing, and sales, and
19 the involvement of any other Defendant;
- 20 4) Describe in detail whether and how that Defendant is in compliance
21 with each Section of this Order; and
- 22 5) Provide a copy of each Order Acknowledgment obtained pursuant to
23 this Order, unless previously submitted to the Commission.

24 B. For twenty (20) years after entry of this Order, the Corporate Defendants
25 must submit a compliance notice, sworn under penalty of perjury, within fourteen (14)
26 days of any change in the following:

- 27 1) Any designated point of contact; or

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1 B. Personnel records showing, for each person providing services, whether as
2 an employee or otherwise, that person's: name; addresses; telephone numbers; job title or
3 position; dates of service; and (if applicable) the reason for termination;

4 C. Records of all consumer complaints and refund requests, whether received
5 directly or indirectly, such as through a third party, and any response;

6 D. All records necessary to demonstrate full compliance with each provision
7 of this Order, including all submissions to the Commission; and

8 E. A copy of each unique advertisement or other marketing material.

9 **XIII.**

10 **Compliance Monitoring**

11 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, for the purpose of monitoring the Corporate
12 Defendants' compliance with this Order, that:

13 A. Within 14 days of receipt of a written request from a representative of the
14 Commission, each Corporate Defendant must submit additional compliance reports or
15 other requested information, which must be sworn under penalty of perjury; appear for
16 depositions; and produce documents for inspection and copying. The Commission is also
17 authorized to obtain discovery, without further leave of court, using any of the procedures
18 prescribed by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 29, 30 (including telephonic depositions),
19 31, 33, 34, 36, 45, and 69.

20 B. For matters concerning this Order, the Commission is authorized to
21 communicate directly with each Corporate Defendant. The Corporate Defendants must
22 permit representatives of the Commission to interview any employee or other person
23 affiliated with any Defendant who has agreed to such an interview. The person
24 interviewed may have counsel present.

25 C. The Commission may use all other lawful means, including posing, through
26 its representatives as consumers, suppliers, or other individuals or entities, to the
27 Corporate Defendants or any individual or entity affiliated with them, without the
28 necessity of identification or prior notice. Nothing in this Order limits the Commission's

1 lawful use of compulsory process, pursuant to Sections 9 and 20 of the FTC Act, 15
2 U.S.C. §§ 49, 57b-1.

3 **XIV.**

4 **Receivership**

5 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**

6 A. Peter S. Davis shall continue as Receiver over the Receivership Entities as
7 set forth in the Preliminary Injunction Orders (Docs. 56 & 229) entered by this Court on
8 August 19, 2013 and April 28, 2014 and the Court's Order on the Receiver's Petition No.
9 4 (Doc. 124).

10 B. The Receiver is directed and authorized to:

- 11 1) Liquidate all assets and finalize the affairs of the Receivership
12 Entities;
- 13 2) Prepare and file with the Court a final report describing the
14 Receiver's activities; and
- 15 3) Prepare and file with the Court a final petition for compensation,
16 pursuant to the procedures provided in the Court's Order on the
17 Receiver's Petition 2 (Doc. 105).

18 C. The Receiver shall mail copies of the final report to all known creditors and
19 nominee owners of the Receivership Entities with a notice stating that any objections to
20 paying any assets of the Receivership Entities to satisfy the Receiver's costs and expenses
21 and the monetary judgment set forth in this Order must be submitted to the Court and
22 served by mail upon the Receiver and the parties within thirty (30) days of the mailing of
23 the final report.

24 D. The Receiver must complete all duties with respect to the Receivership
25 Entities within 120 days after entry of this Order. Any party or the Receiver may request
26 that the Court extend the Receiver's term for good cause.

27 E. Upon the Court's approval of the Receiver's final petition for
28 compensation, the Receiver is ordered, within fourteen (14) days, to pay all remaining

1 receivership estate funds to the Commission by electronic fund transfer in accordance
2 with instructions provided by a representative of the Commission to the Receiver, in
3 partial satisfaction of the Judgment imposed by Section VI of this Order.

4 F. Upon completion of the above tasks, the Receivership is terminated and the
5 Receiver is discharged.

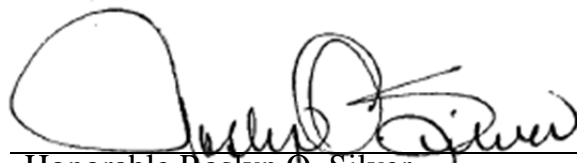
6 G. Upon termination of the Receivership and with at least 14 days advance
7 notice to counsel for the Commission, the Receiver may dispose of or destroy any records
8 and documents of the Receivership Entities in the Receiver's possession, custody, or
9 subject to the Receiver's control as the Receiver sees fit, except any documents or records
10 that the Commission directs the Receiver to transfer to the Commission or its designee.
11 The Commission or its designee may dispose of or destroy such records and documents
12 as the Commission sees fit.

13 **XV.**

14 **Retention of Jurisdiction**

15 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** this Court retains jurisdiction of this matter for
16 purposes of construction, modification, and enforcement of this Order.

17 Dated this 16th day of July, 2015.

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21 Honorable Roslyn O. Silver
22 Senior United States District Judge
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Pt. 309, App. A

16 CFR Ch. I (1–1–14 Edition)

**PART 310—TELEMARKETING SALES
RULE 16 CFR PART 310**

Sec.

310.1 Scope of regulations in this part.

310.2 Definitions.

310.3 Deceptive telemarketing acts or practices.

310.4 Abusive telemarketing acts or practices.

310.5 Recordkeeping requirements.

310.6 Exemptions.

310.7 Actions by states and private persons.

310.8 Fee for access to the National Do Not Call Registry.

310.9 Severability.

AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 6101–6108.

SOURCE: 75 FR 48516, Aug. 10, 2010, unless otherwise noted.

§ 310.1 Scope of regulations in this part.

This part implements the Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act, 15 U.S.C. 6101–6108, as amended.

§ 310.2 Definitions.

(a) *Acquirer* means a business organization, financial institution, or an agent of a business organization or financial institution that has authority from an organization that operates or licenses a credit card system to authorize merchants to accept, transmit, or process payment by credit card through the credit card system for money, goods or services, or anything else of value.

Federal Trade Commission**§ 310.2**

(b) *Attorney General* means the chief legal officer of a state.

(c) *Billing information* means any data that enables any person to access a customer's or donor's account, such as a credit card, checking, savings, share or similar account, utility bill, mortgage loan account, or debit card.

(d) *Caller identification service* means a service that allows a telephone subscriber to have the telephone number, and, where available, name of the calling party transmitted contemporaneously with the telephone call, and displayed on a device in or connected to the subscriber's telephone.

(e) *Cardholder* means a person to whom a credit card is issued or who is authorized to use a credit card on behalf of or in addition to the person to whom the credit card is issued.

(f) *Charitable contribution* means any donation or gift of money or any other thing of value.

(g) *Commission* means the Federal Trade Commission.

(h) *Credit* means the right granted by a creditor to a debtor to defer payment of debt or to incur debt and defer its payment.

(i) *Credit card* means any card, plate, coupon book, or other credit device existing for the purpose of obtaining money, property, labor, or services on credit.

(j) *Credit card sales draft* means any record or evidence of a credit card transaction.

(k) *Credit card system* means any method or procedure used to process credit card transactions involving credit cards issued or licensed by the operator of that system.

(l) *Customer* means any person who is or may be required to pay for goods or services offered through telemarketing.

(m) *Debt relief service* means any program or service represented, directly or by implication, to renegotiate, settle, or in any way alter the terms of payment or other terms of the debt between a person and one or more unsecured creditors or debt collectors, including, but not limited to, a reduction in the balance, interest rate, or fees owed by a person to an unsecured creditor or debt collector.

(n) *Donor* means any person solicited to make a charitable contribution.

(o) *Established business relationship* means a relationship between a seller and a consumer based on:

(1) the consumer's purchase, rental, or lease of the seller's goods or services or a financial transaction between the consumer and seller, within the eighteen (18) months immediately preceding the date of a telemarketing call; or

(2) the consumer's inquiry or application regarding a product or service offered by the seller, within the three (3) months immediately preceding the date of a telemarketing call.

(p) *Free-to-pay conversion* means, in an offer or agreement to sell or provide any goods or services, a provision under which a customer receives a product or service for free for an initial period and will incur an obligation to pay for the product or service if he or she does not take affirmative action to cancel before the end of that period.

(q) *Investment opportunity* means anything, tangible or intangible, that is offered, offered for sale, sold, or traded based wholly or in part on representations, either express or implied, about past, present, or future income, profit, or appreciation.

(r) *Material* means likely to affect a person's choice of, or conduct regarding, goods or services or a charitable contribution.

(s) *Merchant* means a person who is authorized under a written contract with an acquirer to honor or accept credit cards, or to transmit or process for payment credit card payments, for the purchase of goods or services or a charitable contribution.

(t) *Merchant agreement* means a written contract between a merchant and an acquirer to honor or accept credit cards, or to transmit or process for payment credit card payments, for the purchase of goods or services or a charitable contribution.

(u) *Negative option feature* means, in an offer or agreement to sell or provide any goods or services, a provision under which the customer's silence or failure to take an affirmative action to reject goods or services or to cancel the agreement is interpreted by the seller as acceptance of the offer.

§ 310.3

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(v) *Outbound telephone call* means a telephone call initiated by a telemarketer to induce the purchase of goods or services or to solicit a charitable contribution.

(w) *Person* means any individual, group, unincorporated association, limited or general partnership, corporation, or other business entity.

(x) *Preacquired account information* means any information that enables a seller or telemarketer to cause a charge to be placed against a customer's or donor's account without obtaining the account number directly from the customer or donor during the telemarketing transaction pursuant to which the account will be charged.

(y) *Prize* means anything offered, or purportedly offered, and given, or purportedly given, to a person by chance. For purposes of this definition, chance exists if a person is guaranteed to receive an item and, at the time of the offer or purported offer, the telemarketer does not identify the specific item that the person will receive.

(z) *Prize promotion* means:

(1) A sweepstakes or other game of chance; or

(2) An oral or written express or implied representation that a person has won, has been selected to receive, or may be eligible to receive a prize or purported prize.

(aa) *Seller* means any person who, in connection with a telemarketing transaction, provides, offers to provide, or arranges for others to provide goods or services to the customer in exchange for consideration.

(bb) *State* means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and any territory or possession of the United States.

(cc) *Telemarketer* means any person who, in connection with telemarketing, initiates or receives telephone calls to or from a customer or donor.

(dd) *Telemarketing* means a plan, program, or campaign which is conducted to induce the purchase of goods or services or a charitable contribution, by use of one or more telephones and which involves more than one interstate telephone call. The term does not include the solicitation of sales through the mailing of a catalog

which: contains a written description or illustration of the goods or services offered for sale; includes the business address of the seller; includes multiple pages of written material or illustrations; and has been issued not less frequently than once a year, when the person making the solicitation does not solicit customers by telephone but only receives calls initiated by customers in response to the catalog and during those calls takes orders only without further solicitation. For purposes of the previous sentence, the term "further solicitation" does not include providing the customer with information about, or attempting to sell, any other item included in the same catalog which prompted the customer's call or in a substantially similar catalog.

(ee) *Upselling* means soliciting the purchase of goods or services following an initial transaction during a single telephone call. The upsell is a separate telemarketing transaction, not a continuation of the initial transaction. An "external upsell" is a solicitation made by or on behalf of a seller different from the seller in the initial transaction, regardless of whether the initial transaction and the subsequent solicitation are made by the same telemarketer. An "internal upsell" is a solicitation made by or on behalf of the same seller as in the initial transaction, regardless of whether the initial transaction and subsequent solicitation are made by the same telemarketer.

§ 310.3 Deceptive telemarketing acts or practices.

(a) *Prohibited deceptive telemarketing acts or practices.* It is a deceptive telemarketing act or practice and a violation of this Rule for any seller or telemarketer to engage in the following conduct:

(1) Before a customer consents to pay⁶⁵⁹ for goods or services offered,

⁶⁵⁹ When a seller or telemarketer uses, or directs a customer to use, a courier to transport payment, the seller or telemarketer must make the disclosures required by § 310.3(a)(1) before sending a courier to pick up payment or authorization for payment, or directing a customer to have a courier pick up payment or authorization for payment. In

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failing to disclose truthfully, in a clear and conspicuous manner, the following material information:

(i) The total costs to purchase, receive, or use, and the quantity of, any goods or services that are the subject of the sales offer;⁶⁶⁰

(ii) All material restrictions, limitations, or conditions to purchase, receive, or use the goods or services that are the subject of the sales offer;

(iii) If the seller has a policy of not making refunds, cancellations, exchanges, or repurchases, a statement informing the customer that this is the seller's policy; or, if the seller or telemarketer makes a representation about a refund, cancellation, exchange, or repurchase policy, a statement of all material terms and conditions of such policy;

(iv) In any prize promotion, the odds of being able to receive the prize, and, if the odds are not calculable in advance, the factors used in calculating the odds; that no purchase or payment is required to win a prize or to participate in a prize promotion and that any purchase or payment will not increase the person's chances of winning; and the no-purchase/no-payment method of participating in the prize promotion with either instructions on how to participate or an address or local or toll-free telephone number to which customers may write or call for information on how to participate;

(v) All material costs or conditions to receive or redeem a prize that is the subject of the prize promotion;

(vi) In the sale of any goods or services represented to protect, insure, or otherwise limit a customer's liability in the event of unauthorized use of the customer's credit card, the limits on a cardholder's liability for unauthorized use of a credit card pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1643;

(vii) If the offer includes a negative option feature, all material terms and conditions of the negative option feature, including, but not limited to, the fact that the customer's account will be charged unless the customer takes an affirmative action to avoid the charge(s), the date(s) the charge(s) will be submitted for payment, and the specific steps the customer must take to avoid the charge(s); and

(viii) In the sale of any debt relief service:

(A) the amount of time necessary to achieve the represented results, and to the extent that the service may include a settlement offer to any of the customer's creditors or debt collectors, the time by which the debt relief service provider will make a bona fide settlement offer to each of them;

(B) to the extent that the service may include a settlement offer to any of the customer's creditors or debt collectors, the amount of money or the percentage of each outstanding debt that the customer must accumulate before the debt relief service provider will make a bona fide settlement offer to each of them;

(C) to the extent that any aspect of the debt relief service relies upon or results in the customer's failure to make timely payments to creditors or debt collectors, that the use of the debt relief service will likely adversely affect the customer's creditworthiness, may result in the customer being subject to collections or sued by creditors or debt collectors, and may increase the amount of money the customer owes due to the accrual of fees and interest; and

(D) to the extent that the debt relief service requests or requires the customer to place funds in an account at an insured financial institution, that the customer owns the funds held in the account, the customer may withdraw from the debt relief service at any time without penalty, and, if the customer withdraws, the customer must receive all funds in the account, other than funds earned by the debt relief service in compliance with § 310.4(a)(5)(i)(A) through (C).

(2) Misrepresenting, directly or by implication, in the sale of goods or

the case of debt relief services, the seller or telemarketer must make the disclosures required by § 310.3(a)(1) before the consumer enrolls in an offered program.

⁶⁶⁰ For offers of consumer credit products subject to the Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*, and Regulation Z, 12 CFR 226, compliance with the disclosure requirements under the Truth in Lending Act and Regulation Z shall constitute compliance with § 310.3(a)(1)(i) of this Rule.

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services any of the following material information:

(i) The total costs to purchase, receive, or use, and the quantity of, any goods or services that are the subject of a sales offer;

(ii) Any material restriction, limitation, or condition to purchase, receive, or use goods or services that are the subject of a sales offer;

(iii) Any material aspect of the performance, efficacy, nature, or central characteristics of goods or services that are the subject of a sales offer;

(iv) Any material aspect of the nature or terms of the seller's refund, cancellation, exchange, or repurchase policies;

(v) Any material aspect of a prize promotion including, but not limited to, the odds of being able to receive a prize, the nature or value of a prize, or that a purchase or payment is required to win a prize or to participate in a prize promotion;

(vi) Any material aspect of an investment opportunity including, but not limited to, risk, liquidity, earnings potential, or profitability;

(vii) A seller's or telemarketer's affiliation with, or endorsement or sponsorship by, any person or government entity;

(viii) That any customer needs offered goods or services to provide protections a customer already has pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1643;

(ix) Any material aspect of a negative option feature including, but not limited to, the fact that the customer's account will be charged unless the customer takes an affirmative action to avoid the charge(s), the date(s) the charge(s) will be submitted for payment, and the specific steps the customer must take to avoid the charge(s); or

(x) Any material aspect of any debt relief service, including, but not limited to, the amount of money or the percentage of the debt amount that a customer may save by using such service; the amount of time necessary to achieve the represented results; the amount of money or the percentage of each outstanding debt that the customer must accumulate before the provider of the debt relief service will initiate attempts with the customer's

creditors or debt collectors or make a bona fide offer to negotiate, settle, or modify the terms of the customer's debt; the effect of the service on a customer's creditworthiness; the effect of the service on collection efforts of the customer's creditors or debt collectors; the percentage or number of customers who attain the represented results; and whether a debt relief service is offered or provided by a non-profit entity.

(3) Causing billing information to be submitted for payment, or collecting or attempting to collect payment for goods or services or a charitable contribution, directly or indirectly, without the customer's or donor's express verifiable authorization, except when the method of payment used is a credit card subject to protections of the Truth in Lending Act and Regulation Z,⁶⁶¹ or a debit card subject to the protections of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act and Regulation E.⁶⁶² Such authorization shall be deemed verifiable if any of the following means is employed:

(i) Express written authorization by the customer or donor, which includes the customer's or donor's signature;⁶⁶³

(ii) Express oral authorization which is audio-recorded and made available upon request to the customer or donor, and the customer's or donor's bank or other billing entity, and which evidences clearly both the customer's or donor's authorization of payment for the goods or services or charitable contribution that are the subject of the telemarketing transaction and the customer's or donor's receipt of all of the following information:

(A) The number of debits, charges, or payments (if more than one);

(B) The date(s) the debit(s), charge(s), or payment(s) will be submitted for payment;

⁶⁶¹ Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*, and Regulation Z, 12 CFR part 226.

⁶⁶² Electronic Fund Transfer Act, 15 U.S.C. 1693 *et seq.*, and Regulation E, 12 CFR part 205.

⁶⁶³ For purposes of this Rule, the term "signature" shall include an electronic or digital form of signature, to the extent that such form of signature is recognized as a valid signature under applicable federal law or state contract law.

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(C) The amount(s) of the debit(s), charge(s), or payment(s);

(D) The customer's or donor's name;

(E) The customer's or donor's billing information, identified with sufficient specificity such that the customer or donor understands what account will be used to collect payment for the goods or services or charitable contribution that are the subject of the telemarketing transaction;

(F) A telephone number for customer or donor inquiry that is answered during normal business hours; and

(G) The date of the customer's or donor's oral authorization; or

(iii) Written confirmation of the transaction, identified in a clear and conspicuous manner as such on the outside of the envelope, sent to the customer or donor via first class mail prior to the submission for payment of the customer's or donor's billing information, and that includes all of the information contained in §§ 310.3(a)(3)(ii)(A)-(G) and a clear and conspicuous statement of the procedures by which the customer or donor can obtain a refund from the seller or telemarketer or charitable organization in the event the confirmation is inaccurate; provided, however, that this means of authorization shall not be deemed verifiable in instances in which goods or services are offered in a transaction involving a free-to-pay conversion and preacquired account information.

(4) Making a false or misleading statement to induce any person to pay for goods or services or to induce a charitable contribution.

(b) *Assisting and facilitating.* It is a deceptive telemarketing act or practice and a violation of this Rule for a person to provide substantial assistance or support to any seller or telemarketer when that person knows or consciously avoids knowing that the seller or telemarketer is engaged in any act or practice that violates §§ 310.3(a), (c) or (d), or § 310.4 of this Rule.

(c) *Credit card laundering.* Except as expressly permitted by the applicable credit card system, it is a deceptive telemarketing act or practice and a violation of this Rule for:

(1) A merchant to present to or deposit into, or cause another to present

to or deposit into, the credit card system for payment, a credit card sales draft generated by a telemarketing transaction that is not the result of a telemarketing credit card transaction between the cardholder and the merchant;

(2) Any person to employ, solicit, or otherwise cause a merchant, or an employee, representative, or agent of the merchant, to present to or deposit into the credit card system for payment, a credit card sales draft generated by a telemarketing transaction that is not the result of a telemarketing credit card transaction between the cardholder and the merchant; or

(3) Any person to obtain access to the credit card system through the use of a business relationship or an affiliation with a merchant, when such access is not authorized by the merchant agreement or the applicable credit card system.

(d) *Prohibited deceptive acts or practices in the solicitation of charitable contributions.* It is a fraudulent charitable solicitation, a deceptive telemarketing act or practice, and a violation of this Rule for any telemarketer soliciting charitable contributions to misrepresent, directly or by implication, any of the following material information:

(1) The nature, purpose, or mission of any entity on behalf of which a charitable contribution is being requested;

(2) That any charitable contribution is tax deductible in whole or in part;

(3) The purpose for which any charitable contribution will be used;

(4) The percentage or amount of any charitable contribution that will go to a charitable organization or to any particular charitable program;

(5) Any material aspect of a prize promotion including, but not limited to: the odds of being able to receive a prize; the nature or value of a prize; or that a charitable contribution is required to win a prize or to participate in a prize promotion; or

(6) A charitable organization's or telemarketer's affiliation with, or endorsement or sponsorship by, any person or government entity.

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(a) *Abusive conduct generally.* It is an abusive telemarketing act or practice and a violation of this Rule for any seller or telemarketer to engage in the following conduct:

(1) Threats, intimidation, or the use of profane or obscene language;

(2) Requesting or receiving payment of any fee or consideration for goods or services represented to remove derogatory information from, or improve, a person's credit history, credit record, or credit rating until:

(i) The time frame in which the seller has represented all of the goods or services will be provided to that person has expired; and

(ii) The seller has provided the person with documentation in the form of a consumer report from a consumer reporting agency demonstrating that the promised results have been achieved, such report having been issued more than six months after the results were achieved. Nothing in this Rule should be construed to affect the requirement in the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681, that a consumer report may only be obtained for a specified permissible purpose;

(3) Requesting or receiving payment of any fee or consideration from a person for goods or services represented to recover or otherwise assist in the return of money or any other item of value paid for by, or promised to, that person in a previous telemarketing transaction, until seven (7) business days after such money or other item is delivered to that person. This provision shall not apply to goods or services provided to a person by a licensed attorney;

(4) Requesting or receiving payment of any fee or consideration in advance of obtaining a loan or other extension of credit when the seller or telemarketer has guaranteed or represented a high likelihood of success in obtaining or arranging a loan or other extension of credit for a person;

(5)(i) Requesting or receiving payment of any fee or consideration for any debt relief service until and unless:

(A) The seller or telemarketer has renegotiated, settled, reduced, or otherwise altered the terms of at least one

debt pursuant to a settlement agreement, debt management plan, or other such valid contractual agreement executed by the customer;

(B) The customer has made at least one payment pursuant to that settlement agreement, debt management plan, or other valid contractual agreement between the customer and the creditor or debt collector; and

(C) To the extent that debts enrolled in a service are renegotiated, settled, reduced, or otherwise altered individually, the fee or consideration either:

(1) Bears the same proportional relationship to the total fee for renegotiating, settling, reducing, or altering the terms of the entire debt balance as the individual debt amount bears to the entire debt amount. The individual debt amount and the entire debt amount are those owed at the time the debt was enrolled in the service; or

(2) Is a percentage of the amount saved as a result of the renegotiation, settlement, reduction, or alteration. The percentage charged cannot change from one individual debt to another. The amount saved is the difference between the amount owed at the time the debt was enrolled in the service and the amount actually paid to satisfy the debt.

(ii) Nothing in § 310.4(a)(5)(i) prohibits requesting or requiring the customer to place funds in an account to be used for the debt relief provider's fees and for payments to creditors or debt collectors in connection with the renegotiation, settlement, reduction, or other alteration of the terms of payment or other terms of a debt, provided that:

(A) The funds are held in an account at an insured financial institution;

(B) The customer owns the funds held in the account and is paid accrued interest on the account, if any;

(C) The entity administering the account is not owned or controlled by, or in any way affiliated with, the debt relief service;

(D) The entity administering the account does not give or accept any money or other compensation in exchange for referrals of business involving the debt relief service; and

(E) The customer may withdraw from the debt relief service at any time without penalty, and must receive all

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funds in the account, other than funds earned by the debt relief service in compliance with §310.4(a)(5)(i)(A) through (C), within seven (7) business days of the customer's request.

(6) Disclosing or receiving, for consideration, unencrypted consumer account numbers for use in telemarketing; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not apply to the disclosure or receipt of a customer's or donor's billing information to process a payment for goods or services or a charitable contribution pursuant to a transaction;

(7) Causing billing information to be submitted for payment, directly or indirectly, without the express informed consent of the customer or donor. In any telemarketing transaction, the seller or telemarketer must obtain the express informed consent of the customer or donor to be charged for the goods or services or charitable contribution and to be charged using the identified account. In any telemarketing transaction involving preacquired account information, the requirements in paragraphs (a)(7)(i) through (ii) of this section must be met to evidence express informed consent.

(i) In any telemarketing transaction involving preacquired account information and a free-to-pay conversion feature, the seller or telemarketer must:

(A) Obtain from the customer, at a minimum, the last four (4) digits of the account number to be charged;

(B) Obtain from the customer his or her express agreement to be charged for the goods or services and to be charged using the account number pursuant to paragraph (a)(7)(i)(A) of this section; and,

(C) Make and maintain an audio recording of the entire telemarketing transaction.

(ii) In any other telemarketing transaction involving preacquired account information not described in paragraph (a)(7)(i) of this section, the seller or telemarketer must:

(A) At a minimum, identify the account to be charged with sufficient specificity for the customer or donor to understand what account will be charged; and

(B) Obtain from the customer or donor his or her express agreement to

be charged for the goods or services and to be charged using the account number identified pursuant to paragraph (a)(7)(ii)(A) of this section; or

(8) Failing to transmit or cause to be transmitted the telephone number, and, when made available by the telemarketer's carrier, the name of the telemarketer, to any caller identification service in use by a recipient of a telemarketing call; provided that it shall not be a violation to substitute (for the name and phone number used in, or billed for, making the call) the name of the seller or charitable organization on behalf of which a telemarketing call is placed, and the seller's or charitable organization's customer or donor service telephone number, which is answered during regular business hours.

(b) *Pattern of calls.* (1) It is an abusive telemarketing act or practice and a violation of this Rule for a telemarketer to engage in, or for a seller to cause a telemarketer to engage in, the following conduct:

(i) Causing any telephone to ring, or engaging any person in telephone conversation, repeatedly or continuously with intent to annoy, abuse, or harass any person at the called number;

(ii) Denying or interfering in any way, directly or indirectly, with a person's right to be placed on any registry of names and/or telephone numbers of persons who do not wish to receive outbound telephone calls established to comply with §310.4(b)(1)(iii);

(iii) Initiating any outbound telephone call to a person when:

(A) That person previously has stated that he or she does not wish to receive an outbound telephone call made by or on behalf of the seller whose goods or services are being offered or made on behalf of the charitable organization for which a charitable contribution is being solicited; or

(B) That person's telephone number is on the "do-not-call" registry, maintained by the Commission, of persons who do not wish to receive outbound telephone calls to induce the purchase of goods or services unless the seller:

(i) Has obtained the express agreement, in writing, of such person to place calls to that person. Such written agreement shall clearly evidence such

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person's authorization that calls made by or on behalf of a specific party may be placed to that person, and shall include the telephone number to which the calls may be placed and the signature⁶⁶⁴ of that person; or

(ii) Has an established business relationship with such person, and that person has not stated that he or she does not wish to receive outbound telephone calls under paragraph (b)(1)(iii)(A) of this section; or

(iv) Abandoning any outbound telephone call. An outbound telephone call is "abandoned" under this section if a person answers it and the telemarketer does not connect the call to a sales representative within two (2) seconds of the person's completed greeting.

(v) Initiating any outbound telephone call that delivers a prerecorded message, other than a prerecorded message permitted for compliance with the call abandonment safe harbor in § 310.4(b)(4)(iii), unless:

(A) In any such call to induce the purchase of any good or service, the seller has obtained from the recipient of the call an express agreement, in writing, that:

(i) The seller obtained only after a clear and conspicuous disclosure that the purpose of the agreement is to authorize the seller to place prerecorded calls to such person;

(ii) The seller obtained without requiring, directly or indirectly, that the agreement be executed as a condition of purchasing any good or service;

(iii) Evidences the willingness of the recipient of the call to receive calls that deliver prerecorded messages by or on behalf of a specific seller; and

(iv) Includes such person's telephone number and signature;⁶⁶⁵ and

(B) In any such call to induce the purchase of any good or service, or to

induce a charitable contribution from a member of, or previous donor to, a non-profit charitable organization on whose behalf the call is made, the seller or telemarketer:

(i) Allows the telephone to ring for at least fifteen (15) seconds or four (4) rings before disconnecting an unanswered call; and

(ii) Within two (2) seconds after the completed greeting of the person called, plays a prerecorded message that promptly provides the disclosures required by § 310.4(d) or (e), followed immediately by a disclosure of one or both of the following:

(A) In the case of a call that could be answered in person by a consumer, that the person called can use an automated interactive voice and/or keypress-activated opt-out mechanism to assert a Do Not Call request pursuant to § 310.4(b)(1)(iii)(A) at any time during the message. The mechanism must:

(1) Automatically add the number called to the seller's entity-specific Do Not Call list;

(2) Once invoked, immediately disconnect the call; and

(3) Be available for use at any time during the message; and

(B) In the case of a call that could be answered by an answering machine or voicemail service, that the person called can use a toll-free telephone number to assert a Do Not Call request pursuant to § 310.4(b)(1)(iii)(A). The number provided must connect directly to an automated interactive voice or keypress-activated opt-out mechanism that:

(1) Automatically adds the number called to the seller's entity-specific Do Not Call list;

(2) Immediately thereafter disconnects the call; and

(3) Is accessible at any time throughout the duration of the telemarketing campaign; and

(iii) Complies with all other requirements of this part and other applicable federal and state laws.

(C) Any call that complies with all applicable requirements of this paragraph (v) shall not be deemed to violate § 310.4(b)(1)(iv) of this part.

⁶⁶⁴ For purposes of this Rule, the term "signature" shall include an electronic or digital form of signature, to the extent that such form of signature is recognized as a valid signature under applicable federal law or state contract law.

⁶⁶⁵ For purposes of this Rule, the term "signature" shall include an electronic or digital form of signature, to the extent that such form of signature is recognized as a valid signature under applicable federal law or state contract law.

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(D) This paragraph (v) shall not apply to any outbound telephone call that delivers a prerecorded healthcare message made by, or on behalf of, a covered entity or its business associate, as those terms are defined in the HIPAA Privacy Rule, 45 CFR 160.103.

(2) It is an abusive telemarketing act or practice and a violation of this Rule for any person to sell, rent, lease, purchase, or use any list established to comply with § 310.4(b)(1)(iii)(A), or maintained by the Commission pursuant to § 310.4(b)(1)(iii)(B), for any purpose except compliance with the provisions of this Rule or otherwise to prevent telephone calls to telephone numbers on such lists.

(3) A seller or telemarketer will not be liable for violating § 310.4(b)(1)(ii) and (iii) if it can demonstrate that, as part of the seller's or telemarketer's routine business practice:

(i) It has established and implemented written procedures to comply with § 310.4(b)(1)(ii) and (iii);

(ii) It has trained its personnel, and any entity assisting in its compliance, in the procedures established pursuant to § 310.4(b)(3)(i);

(iii) The seller, or a telemarketer or another person acting on behalf of the seller or charitable organization, has maintained and recorded a list of telephone numbers the seller or charitable organization may not contact, in compliance with § 310.4(b)(1)(iii)(A);

(iv) The seller or a telemarketer uses a process to prevent telemarketing to any telephone number on any list established pursuant to § 310.4(b)(3)(iii) or 310.4(b)(1)(iii)(B), employing a version of the "do-not-call" registry obtained from the Commission no more than thirty-one (31) days prior to the date any call is made, and maintains records documenting this process;

(v) The seller or a telemarketer or another person acting on behalf of the seller or charitable organization, monitors and enforces compliance with the procedures established pursuant to § 310.4(b)(3)(i); and

(vi) Any subsequent call otherwise violating § 310.4(b)(1)(ii) or (iii) is the result of error.

(4) A seller or telemarketer will not be liable for violating § 310.4(b)(1)(iv) if:

(i) The seller or telemarketer employs technology that ensures abandonment of no more than three (3) percent of all calls answered by a person, measured over the duration of a single calling campaign, if less than 30 days, or separately over each successive 30-day period or portion thereof that the campaign continues.

(ii) The seller or telemarketer, for each telemarketing call placed, allows the telephone to ring for at least fifteen (15) seconds or four (4) rings before disconnecting an unanswered call;

(iii) Whenever a sales representative is not available to speak with the person answering the call within two (2) seconds after the person's completed greeting, the seller or telemarketer promptly plays a recorded message that states the name and telephone number of the seller on whose behalf the call was placed⁶⁶⁶; and

(iv) The seller or telemarketer, in accordance with § 310.5(b)-(d), retains records establishing compliance with § 310.4(b)(4)(i)-(iii).

(c) *Calling time restrictions.* Without the prior consent of a person, it is an abusive telemarketing act or practice and a violation of this Rule for a telemarketer to engage in outbound telephone calls to a person's residence at any time other than between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. local time at the called person's location.

(d) *Required oral disclosures in the sale of goods or services.* It is an abusive telemarketing act or practice and a violation of this Rule for a telemarketer in an outbound telephone call or internal or external upsell to induce the purchase of goods or services to fail to disclose truthfully, promptly, and in a clear and conspicuous manner to the person receiving the call, the following information:

- (1) The identity of the seller;
- (2) That the purpose of the call is to sell goods or services;
- (3) The nature of the goods or services; and
- (4) That no purchase or payment is necessary to be able to win a prize or

⁶⁶⁶ This provision does not affect any seller's or telemarketer's obligation to comply with relevant state and federal laws, including but not limited to the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. 227, and 47 CFR part 64.1200.

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participate in a prize promotion if a prize promotion is offered and that any purchase or payment will not increase the person's chances of winning. This disclosure must be made before or in conjunction with the description of the prize to the person called. If requested by that person, the telemarketer must disclose the no-purchase/no-payment entry method for the prize promotion; provided, however, that, in any internal upsell for the sale of goods or services, the seller or telemarketer must provide the disclosures listed in this section only to the extent that the information in the upsell differs from the disclosures provided in the initial telemarketing transaction.

(e) *Required oral disclosures in charitable solicitations.* It is an abusive telemarketing act or practice and a violation of this Rule for a telemarketer, in an outbound telephone call to induce a charitable contribution, to fail to disclose truthfully, promptly, and in a clear and conspicuous manner to the person receiving the call, the following information:

(1) The identity of the charitable organization on behalf of which the request is being made; and

(2) That the purpose of the call is to solicit a charitable contribution.

[75 FR 48516, Aug. 10, 2010, as amended at 76 FR 58716, Sept. 22, 2011]

§ 310.5 Recordkeeping requirements.

(a) Any seller or telemarketer shall keep, for a period of 24 months from the date the record is produced, the following records relating to its telemarketing activities:

(1) All substantially different advertising, brochures, telemarketing scripts, and promotional materials;

(2) The name and last known address of each prize recipient and the prize awarded for prizes that are represented, directly or by implication, to have a value of \$25.00 or more;

(3) The name and last known address of each customer, the goods or services purchased, the date such goods or services were shipped or provided, and the amount paid by the customer for the goods or services;⁶⁶⁷

⁶⁶⁷ For offers of consumer credit products subject to the Truth in Lending Act, 15

(4) The name, any fictitious name used, the last known home address and telephone number, and the job title(s) for all current and former employees directly involved in telephone sales or solicitations; provided, however, that if the seller or telemarketer permits fictitious names to be used by employees, each fictitious name must be traceable to only one specific employee; and

(5) All verifiable authorizations or records of express informed consent or express agreement required to be provided or received under this Rule.

(b) A seller or telemarketer may keep the records required by § 310.5(a) in any form, and in the same manner, format, or place as they keep such records in the ordinary course of business. Failure to keep all records required by § 310.5(a) shall be a violation of this Rule.

(c) The seller and the telemarketer calling on behalf of the seller may, by written agreement, allocate responsibility between themselves for the recordkeeping required by this Section. When a seller and telemarketer have entered into such an agreement, the terms of that agreement shall govern, and the seller or telemarketer, as the case may be, need not keep records that duplicate those of the other. If the agreement is unclear as to who must maintain any required record(s), or if no such agreement exists, the seller shall be responsible for complying with §§ 310.5(a)(1)-(3) and (5); the telemarketer shall be responsible for complying with § 310.5(a)(4).

(d) In the event of any dissolution or termination of the seller's or telemarketer's business, the principal of that seller or telemarketer shall maintain all records as required under this section. In the event of any sale, assignment, or other change in ownership of the seller's or telemarketer's business, the successor business shall maintain all records required under this section.

U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*, and Regulation Z, 12 CFR 226, compliance with the recordkeeping requirements under the Truth in Lending Act, and Regulation Z, shall constitute compliance with § 310.5(a)(3) of this Rule.

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(a) Solicitations to induce charitable contributions via outbound telephone calls are not covered by § 310.4(b)(1)(iii)(B) of this Rule.

(b) The following acts or practices are exempt from this Rule:

(1) The sale of pay-per-call services subject to the Commission's Rule entitled "Trade Regulation Rule Pursuant to the Telephone Disclosure and Dispute Resolution Act of 1992," 16 CFR part 308, *provided*, however, that this exemption does not apply to the requirements of §§ 310.4(a)(1), (a)(7), (b), and (c);

(2) The sale of franchises subject to the Commission's Rule entitled "Disclosure Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Franchising," ("Franchise Rule") 16 CFR part 436, and the sale of business opportunities subject to the Commission's Rule entitled "Disclosure Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Business Opportunities," ("Business Opportunity Rule") 16 CFR part 437, *provided*, however, that this exemption does not apply to the requirements of §§ 310.4(a)(1), (a)(7), (b), and (c);

(3) Telephone calls in which the sale of goods or services or charitable solicitation is not completed, and payment or authorization of payment is not required, until after a face-to-face sales or donation presentation by the seller or charitable organization, *provided*, however, that this exemption does not apply to the requirements of §§ 310.4(a)(1), (a)(7), (b), and (c);

(4) Telephone calls initiated by a customer or donor that are not the result of any solicitation by a seller, charitable organization, or telemarketer, *provided*, however, that this exemption does not apply to any instances of upselling included in such telephone calls;

(5) Telephone calls initiated by a customer or donor in response to an advertisement through any medium, other than direct mail solicitation, *provided*, however, that this exemption does not apply to calls initiated by a customer or donor in response to an advertisement relating to investment opportunities, debt relief services, business opportunities other than business arrangements covered by the Franchise

Rule or Business Opportunity Rule, or advertisements involving goods or services described in §§ 310.3(a)(1)(vi) or 310.4(a)(2)-(4); or to any instances of upselling included in such telephone calls;

(6) Telephone calls initiated by a customer or donor in response to a direct mail solicitation, including solicitations via the U.S. Postal Service, facsimile transmission, electronic mail, and other similar methods of delivery in which a solicitation is directed to specific address(es) or person(s), that clearly, conspicuously, and truthfully discloses all material information listed in § 310.3(a)(1) of this Rule, for any goods or services offered in the direct mail solicitation, and that contains no material misrepresentation regarding any item contained in § 310.3(d) of this Rule for any requested charitable contribution; *provided*, however, that this exemption does not apply to calls initiated by a customer in response to a direct mail solicitation relating to prize promotions, investment opportunities, debt relief services, business opportunities other than business arrangements covered by the Franchise Rule or Business Opportunity Rule, or goods or services described in §§ 310.3(a)(1)(vi) or 310.4(a)(2)-(4); or to any instances of upselling included in such telephone calls; and

(7) Telephone calls between a telemarketer and any business, except calls to induce the retail sale of non-durable office or cleaning supplies; *provided*, however, that § 310.4(b)(1)(iii)(B) and § 310.5 of this Rule shall not apply to sellers or telemarketers of non-durable office or cleaning supplies.

§ 310.7 Actions by states and private persons.

(a) Any attorney general or other officer of a state authorized by the state to bring an action under the Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act, and any private person who brings an action under that Act, shall serve written notice of its action on the Commission, if feasible, prior to its initiating an action under this Rule. The notice shall be sent to the Office of the Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580, and

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shall include a copy of the state's or private person's complaint and any other pleadings to be filed with the court. If prior notice is not feasible, the state or private person shall serve the Commission with the required notice immediately upon instituting its action.

(b) Nothing contained in this Section shall prohibit any attorney general or other authorized state official from proceeding in state court on the basis of an alleged violation of any civil or criminal statute of such state.

§310.8 Fee for access to the National Do Not Call Registry.

(a) It is a violation of this Rule for any seller to initiate, or cause any telemarketer to initiate, an outbound telephone call to any person whose telephone number is within a given area code unless such seller, either directly or through another person, first has paid the annual fee, required by §310.8(c), for access to telephone numbers within that area code that are included in the National Do Not Call Registry maintained by the Commission under §310.4(b)(1)(iii)(B); provided, however, that such payment is not necessary if the seller initiates, or causes a telemarketer to initiate, calls solely to persons pursuant to §§310.4(b)(1)(iii)(B)(i) or (ii), and the seller does not access the National Do Not Call Registry for any other purpose.

(b) It is a violation of this Rule for any telemarketer, on behalf of any seller, to initiate an outbound telephone call to any person whose telephone number is within a given area code unless that seller, either directly or through another person, first has paid the annual fee, required by §310.8(c), for access to the telephone numbers within that area code that are included in the National Do Not Call Registry; provided, however, that such payment is not necessary if the seller initiates, or causes a telemarketer to initiate, calls solely to persons pursuant to §§310.4(b)(1)(iii)(B)(i) or (ii), and the seller does not access the National Do Not Call Registry for any other purpose.

(c) The annual fee, which must be paid by any person prior to obtaining

access to the National Do Not Call Registry, is \$59 for each area code of data accessed, up to a maximum of \$16,228; *provided*, however, that there shall be no charge to any person for accessing the first five area codes of data, and *provided further*, that there shall be no charge to any person engaging in or causing others to engage in outbound telephone calls to consumers and who is accessing area codes of data in the National Do Not Call Registry if the person is permitted to access, but is not required to access, the National Do Not Call Registry under this Rule, 47 CFR 64.1200, or any other Federal regulation or law. Any person accessing the National Do Not Call Registry may not participate in any arrangement to share the cost of accessing the registry, including any arrangement with any telemarketer or service provider to divide the costs to access the registry among various clients of that telemarketer or service provider.

(d) Each person who pays, either directly or through another person, the annual fee set forth in §310.8(c), each person excepted under §310.8(c) from paying the annual fee, and each person excepted from paying an annual fee under §310.4(b)(1)(iii)(B), will be provided a unique account number that will allow that person to access the registry data for the selected area codes at any time for the twelve month period beginning on the first day of the month in which the person paid the fee ("the annual period"). To obtain access to additional area codes of data during the first six months of the annual period, each person required to pay the fee under §310.8(c) must first pay \$59 for each additional area code of data not initially selected. To obtain access to additional area codes of data during the second six months of the annual period, each person required to pay the fee under §310.8(c) must first pay \$30 for each additional area code of data not initially selected. The payment of the additional fee will permit the person to access the additional area codes of data for the remainder of the annual period.

(e) Access to the National Do Not Call Registry is limited to telemarketers, sellers, others engaged in or causing others to engage in telephone

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calls to consumers, service providers acting on behalf of such persons, and any government agency that has law enforcement authority. Prior to accessing the National Do Not Call Registry, a person must provide the identifying information required by the operator of the registry to collect the fee, and must certify, under penalty of law, that the person is accessing the registry solely to comply with the provisions of this Rule or to otherwise prevent telephone calls to telephone numbers on the registry. If the person is accessing the registry on behalf of sellers, that person also must identify each of the sellers on whose behalf it is accessing the registry, must provide each seller's unique account number for access to the national registry, and must certify, under penalty of law, that the sellers will be using the information gathered from the registry solely to comply with the provisions of this Rule or otherwise to prevent telephone calls to telephone numbers on the registry.

[75 FR 48516, Aug. 10, 2010; 75 FR 51934, Aug. 24, 2010, as amended at 77 FR 51697, Aug. 27, 2012; 78 FR 53643, Aug. 30, 2013]

§ 310.9 Severability.

The provisions of this Rule are separate and severable from one another. If any provision is stayed or determined to be invalid, it is the Commission's intention that the remaining provisions shall continue in effect.

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**PART 437—BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
RULE**

AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 41–58.

SOURCE: 76 FR 76860, Dec. 8, 2012, unless
otherwise noted.

Sec.

- 437.1 Definitions.
- 437.2 The obligation to furnish written documents.
- 437.3 The disclosure document.
- 437.4 Earnings claims.
- 437.5 Sales conducted in Spanish or other languages besides English.
- 437.6 Other prohibited practices.
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APPENDIX A TO PART 437—DISCLOSURE OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

APPENDIX B TO PART 437—DISCLOSURE OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY (SPANISH-LANGUAGE VERSION)

§ 437.1 Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply throughout this part:

(a) *Action* means a criminal information, indictment, or proceeding; a civil complaint, cross claim, counterclaim, or third party complaint in a judicial action or proceeding; arbitration; or any governmental administrative proceeding, including, but not limited to, an action to obtain or issue a cease and desist order, an assurance of voluntary compliance, and an assurance of discontinuance.

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(b) *Affiliate* means an entity controlled by, controlling, or under common control with a business opportunity seller.

(c) *Business opportunity* means a commercial arrangement in which:

(1) A seller solicits a prospective purchaser to enter into a new business; and

(2) The prospective purchaser makes a required payment; and

(3) The seller, expressly or by implication, orally or in writing, represents that the seller or one or more designated persons will:

(i) Provide locations for the use or operation of equipment, displays, vending machines, or similar devices, owned, leased, controlled, or paid for by the purchaser; or

(ii) Provide outlets, accounts, or customers, including, but not limited to, Internet outlets, accounts, or customers, for the purchaser's goods or services; or

(iii) Buy back any or all of the goods or services that the purchaser makes, produces, fabricates, grows, breeds, modifies, or provides, including but not limited to providing payment for such services as, for example, stuffing envelopes from the purchaser's home.

(d) *Designated person* means any person, other than the seller, whose goods or services the seller suggests, recommends, or requires that the purchaser use in establishing or operating a new business.

(e) *Disclose or state* means to give information in writing that is clear and conspicuous, accurate, concise, and legible.

(f) *Earnings claim* means any oral, written, or visual representation to a prospective purchaser that conveys, expressly or by implication, a specific level or range of actual or potential sales, or gross or net income or profits. Earnings claims include, but are not limited to:

(1) Any chart, table, or mathematical calculation that demonstrates possible results based upon a combination of variables; and

(2) Any statements from which a prospective purchaser can reasonably infer that he or she will earn a minimum level of income (e.g., "earn enough to buy a Porsche," "earn a six-figure in-

come," or "earn your investment back within one year").

(g) *Exclusive territory* means a specified geographic or other actual or implied marketing area in which the seller promises not to locate additional purchasers or offer the same or similar goods or services as the purchaser through alternative channels of distribution.

(h) *General media* means any instrumentality through which a person may communicate with the public, including, but not limited to, television, radio, print, Internet, billboard, Web site, commercial bulk email, and mobile communications.

(i) *Material* means likely to affect a person's choice of, or conduct regarding, goods or services.

(j) *New business* means a business in which the prospective purchaser is not currently engaged, or a new line or type of business.

(k) *Person* means an individual, group, association, limited or general partnership, corporation, or any other business entity.

(1) *Prior business* means:

(1) A business from which the seller acquired, directly or indirectly, the major portion of the business' assets; or

(2) Any business previously owned or operated by the seller, in whole or in part.

(m) *Providing locations, outlets, accounts, or customers* means furnishing the prospective purchaser with existing or potential locations, outlets, accounts, or customers; requiring, recommending, or suggesting one or more locators or lead generating companies; providing a list of locator or lead generating companies; collecting a fee on behalf of one or more locators or lead generating companies; offering to furnish a list of locations; or otherwise assisting the prospective purchaser in obtaining his or her own locations, outlets, accounts, or customers, *provided, however,* that advertising and general advice about business development and training shall not be considered as "providing locations, outlets, accounts, or customers."

(n) *Purchaser* means a person who buys a business opportunity.

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(o) *Quarterly* means as of January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

(p) *Required payment* means all consideration that the purchaser must pay to the seller or an affiliate, either by contract or by practical necessity, as a condition of obtaining or commencing operation of the business opportunity. Such payment may be made directly or indirectly through a third party. A required payment does not include payments for the purchase of reasonable amounts of inventory at bona fide wholesale prices for resale or lease.

(q) *Seller* means a person who offers for sale or sells a business opportunity.

(r) *Signature* or *signed* means a person's affirmative steps to authenticate his or her identity.

It includes a person's handwritten signature, as well as an electronic or digital form of signature to the extent that such signature is recognized as a valid signature under applicable federal law or state contract law.

(s) *Written* or *in writing* means any document or information in printed form or in any form capable of being downloaded, printed, or otherwise preserved in tangible form and read. It includes: type-set, word processed, or handwritten documents; information on computer disk or CD-ROM; information sent via email; or information posted on the Internet. It does not include mere oral statements.

§ 437.2 The obligation to furnish written documents.

In connection with the offer for sale, sale, or promotion of a business opportunity, it is a violation of this Rule and an unfair or deceptive act or practice in violation of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act") for any seller to fail to furnish a prospective purchaser with the material information required by §§ 437.3(a) and 437.4(a) of this part in writing at least seven calendar days before the earlier of the time that the prospective purchaser:

(a) Signs any contract in connection with the business opportunity sale; or

(b) Makes a payment or provides other consideration to the seller, directly or indirectly through a third party.

16 CFR Ch. I (1–14 Edition)**§ 437.3 The disclosure document.**

In connection with the offer for sale, sale, or promotion of a business opportunity, it is a violation of this Rule and an unfair or deceptive act or practice in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, for any seller to:

(a) Fail to disclose to a prospective purchaser the following material information in a single written document in the form and using the language set forth in appendix A to this part; or if the offer for sale, sale, or promotion of a business opportunity is conducted in Spanish, in the form and using the language set forth in appendix B to this part; or if the offer for sale, sale, or promotion of a business opportunity is conducted in a language other than English or Spanish, using the form and an accurate translation of the language set forth in appendix A to this part:

(1) *Identifying information.* State the name, business address, and telephone number of the seller, the name of the salesperson offering the opportunity, and the date when the disclosure document is furnished to the prospective purchaser.

(2) *Earnings claims.* If the seller makes an earnings claim, check the "yes" box and attach the earnings statement required by § 437.4. If not, check the "no" box.

(3) *Legal actions.* (i) If any of the following persons has been the subject of any civil or criminal action for misrepresentation, fraud, securities law violations, or unfair or deceptive practices, including violations of any FTC Rule, within the 10 years immediately preceding the date that the business opportunity is offered, check the "yes" box:

(A) The seller;

(B) Any affiliate or prior business of the seller; or

(C) Any of the seller's officers, directors, sales managers, or any individual who occupies a position or performs a function similar to an officer, director, or sales manager of the seller.

(ii) If the "yes" box is checked, disclose all such actions in an attachment to the disclosure document. State the full caption of each action (names of the principal parties, case number, full name of court, and filing date). For

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each action, the seller may also provide a brief accurate statement not to exceed 100 words that describes the action.

(iii) If there are no actions to disclose, check the “no” box.

(4) *Cancellation or refund policy.* If the seller offers a refund or the right to cancel the purchase, check the “yes” box. If so, state all material terms and conditions of the refund or cancellation policy in an attachment to the disclosure document. If no refund or cancellation is offered, check the “no” box.

(5) *References.* (i) State the name, state, and telephone number of all purchasers who purchased the business opportunity within the last three years. If more than 10 purchasers purchased the business opportunity within the last three years, the seller may limit the disclosure by stating the name, state, and telephone number of at least the 10 purchasers within the past three years who are located nearest to the prospective purchaser’s location. Alternatively, a seller may furnish a prospective buyer with a list disclosing all purchasers nationwide within the last three years. If choosing this option, insert the words “See Attached List” without removing the list headings or the numbers 1 through 10, and attach a list of the references to the disclosure document.

(ii) Clearly and conspicuously, and in immediate conjunction with the list of references, state the following: “If you buy a business opportunity from the seller, your contact information can be disclosed in the future to other buyers.”

(6) *Receipt.* Attach a duplicate copy of the disclosure document to be signed and dated by the purchaser. The seller may inform the prospective purchaser how to return the signed receipt (for example, by sending to a street address, email address, or facsimile telephone number).

(b) Fail to update the disclosures required by paragraph (a) of this section at least quarterly to reflect any changes in the required information, including, but not limited to, any changes in the seller’s refund or cancellation policy, or the list of references; *provided, however,* that until a

seller has 10 purchasers, the list of references must be updated monthly.

§ 437.4 Earnings claims.

In connection with the offer for sale, sale, or promotion of a business opportunity, it is a violation of this Rule and an unfair or deceptive act or practice in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, for the seller to:

(a) Make any earnings claim to a prospective purchaser, unless the seller:

(1) Has a reasonable basis for its claim at the time the claim is made;

(2) Has in its possession written materials that substantiate its claim at the time the claim is made;

(3) Makes the written substantiation available upon request to the prospective purchaser and to the Commission; and

(4) Furnishes to the prospective purchaser an earnings claim statement. The earnings claim statement shall be a single written document and shall state the following information:

(i) The title “EARNINGS CLAIM STATEMENT REQUIRED BY LAW” in capital, bold type letters;

(ii) The name of the person making the earnings claim and the date of the earnings claim;

(iii) The earnings claim;

(iv) The beginning and ending dates when the represented earnings were achieved;

(v) The number and percentage of all persons who purchased the business opportunity prior to the ending date in paragraph (a)(4)(iv) of this section who achieved at least the stated level of earnings;

(vi) Any characteristics of the purchasers who achieved at least the represented level of earnings, such as their location, that may differ materially from the characteristics of the prospective purchasers being offered the business opportunity; and

(vii) A statement that written substantiation for the earnings claim will be made available to the prospective purchaser upon request.

(b) Make any earnings claim in the general media, unless the seller:

(1) Has a reasonable basis for its claim at the time the claim is made;

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(2) Has in its possession written material that substantiates its claim at the time the claim is made;

(3) States in immediate conjunction with the claim:

(i) The beginning and ending dates when the represented earnings were achieved; and

(ii) The number and percentage of all persons who purchased the business opportunity prior to the ending date in paragraph (b)(3)(i) of this section who achieved at least the stated level of earnings.

(c) Disseminate industry financial, earnings, or performance information unless the seller has written substantiation demonstrating that the information reflects, or does not exceed, the typical or ordinary financial, earnings, or performance experience of purchasers of the business opportunity being offered for sale.

(d) Fail to notify any prospective purchaser in writing of any material changes affecting the relevance or reliability of the information contained in an earnings claim statement before the prospective purchaser signs any contract or makes a payment or provides other consideration to the seller, directly or indirectly, through a third party.

§ 437.5 Sales conducted in Spanish or other languages besides English.

(a) If the seller conducts the offer for sale, sale, or promotion of a business opportunity in Spanish, the seller must provide the disclosure document required by § 437.3(a) in the form and language set forth in appendix B to this part, and the disclosures required by §§ 437.3(a) and 437.4 must be made in Spanish.

(b) If the seller conducts the offer for sale, sale, or promotion of a business opportunity in a language other than English or Spanish, the seller must provide the disclosure document required by § 437.3(a) using the form and an accurate translation of the language set forth in appendix A to this part, and the disclosures required by §§ 437.3(a) and 437.4 must be made in that language.

16 CFR Ch. I (1–1–14 Edition)**§ 437.6 Other prohibited practices.**

In connection with the offer for sale, sale, or promotion of a business opportunity, it is a violation of this part and an unfair or deceptive act or practice in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act for any seller, directly or indirectly through a third party, to:

(a) Disclaim, or require a prospective purchaser to waive reliance on, any statement made in any document or attachment that is required or permitted to be disclosed under this Rule;

(b) Make any claim or representation, orally, visually, or in writing, that is inconsistent with or contradicts the information required to be disclosed by §§ 437.3 (basic disclosure document) and 437.4 (earnings claims document) of this Rule;

(c) Include in any disclosure document or earnings claim statement any materials or information other than what is explicitly required or permitted by this Rule. For the sole purpose of enhancing the prospective purchaser's ability to maneuver through an electronic version of a disclosure document or earnings statement, the seller may include scroll bars and internal links. All other features (e.g., multimedia tools such as audio, video, animation, or pop-up screens) are prohibited;

(d) Misrepresent the amount of sales, or gross or net income or profits a prospective purchaser may earn or that prior purchasers have earned;

(e) Misrepresent that any governmental entity, law, or regulation prohibits a seller from:

(1) Furnishing earnings information to a prospective purchaser; or

(2) Disclosing to prospective purchasers the identity of other purchasers of the business opportunity;

(f) Fail to make available to prospective purchasers, and to the Commission upon request, written substantiation for the seller's earnings claims;

(g) Misrepresent how or when commissions, bonuses, incentives, premiums, or other payments from the seller to the purchaser will be calculated or distributed;

(h) Misrepresent the cost, or the performance, efficacy, nature, or central

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characteristics of the business opportunity or the goods or services offered to a prospective purchaser;

(i) Misrepresent any material aspect of any assistance offered to a prospective purchaser;

(j) Misrepresent the likelihood that a seller, locator, or lead generator will find locations, outlets, accounts, or customers for the purchaser;

(k) Misrepresent any term or condition of the seller's refund or cancellation policies;

(l) Fail to provide a refund or cancellation when the purchaser has satisfied the terms and conditions disclosed pursuant to § 437.3(a)(4);

(m) Misrepresent a business opportunity as an employment opportunity;

(n) Misrepresent the terms of any territorial exclusivity or territorial protection offered to a prospective purchaser;

(o) Assign to any purchaser a purported exclusive territory that, in fact, encompasses the same or overlapping areas already assigned to another purchaser;

(p) Misrepresent that any person, trademark or service mark holder, or governmental entity, directly or indirectly benefits from, sponsors, participates in, endorses, approves, authorizes, or is otherwise associated with the sale of the business opportunity or the goods or services sold through the business opportunity;

(q) Misrepresent that any person:

(1) Has purchased a business opportunity from the seller or has operated a business opportunity of the type offered by the seller; or

(2) Can provide an independent or reliable report about the business opportunity or the experiences of any current or former purchaser.

(r) Fail to disclose, with respect to any person identified as a purchaser or operator of a business opportunity offered by the seller:

(1) Any consideration promised or paid to such person. Consideration includes, but is not limited to, any payment, forgiveness of debt, or provision of equipment, services, or discounts to the person or to a third party on the person's behalf; or

(2) Any personal relationship or any past or present business relationship

other than as the purchaser or operator of the business opportunity being offered by the seller.

§ 437.7 Record retention.

To prevent the unfair and deceptive acts or practices specified in this Rule, business opportunity sellers and their principals must prepare, retain, and make available for inspection by Commission officials copies of the following documents for a period of three years:

(a) Each materially different version of all documents required by this Rule;

(b) Each purchaser's disclosure receipt;

(c) Each executed written contract with a purchaser; and

(d) All substantiation upon which the seller relies for each earnings claim from the time each such claim is made.

§ 437.8 Franchise exemption.

The provisions of this Rule shall not apply to any business opportunity that constitutes a "franchise," as defined in the Franchise Rule, 16 CFR part 436; *provided, however*, that the provisions of this Rule shall apply to any such franchise if it is exempted from the provisions of part 436 because, either:

(a) Under § 436.8(a)(1), the total of the required payments or commitments to make a required payment, to the franchisor or an affiliate that are made any time from before to within six months after commencing operation of the franchisee's business is less than \$500, or

(b) Under § 436.8(a)(7), there is no written document describing any material term or aspect of the relationship or arrangement.

§ 437.9 Outstanding orders; preemption.

(a) A business opportunity required by prior FTC or court order to follow the Franchise Rule, 16 CFR part 436, may petition the Commission to amend the order or to stipulate to an amendment of the court order so that the business opportunity may follow the provisions of this part.

(b) The FTC does not intend to preempt the business opportunity sales practices laws of any state or local government, except to the extent of any conflict with this part. A law is

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not in conflict with this Rule if it affords prospective purchasers equal or greater protection, such as registration of disclosure documents or more extensive disclosures. All such disclosures, however, must be made in a separate state disclosure document.

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§ 437.10 Severability.

The provisions of this part are separate and severable from one another. If any provision is stayed or determined to be invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in effect.

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APPENDIX A to PART 437

DISCLOSURE OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
 Required by the Federal Trade Commission, Rule 16 C.F.R. Part 437

Name of Seller: _____ Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Salesperson: _____ Date: _____

[Name of Seller] has completed this form, which provides important information about the business opportunity it is offering you. The Federal Trade Commission, an agency of the federal government, requires that [Name of Seller] complete this form and give it to you. However, the Federal Trade Commission has not seen this completed form or checked that the information is true. **Make sure that this information is the same as what the salesperson told you about this opportunity.**

<p>LEGAL ACTIONS: Has [Name of Seller] or any of its key personnel been the subject of a civil or criminal action involving misrepresentation, fraud, securities law violation, or unfair or deceptive practices, including violations of any FTC Rule, within the past 10 years?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES → <i>If the answer is yes, [Name of Seller] must attach a list of all such legal actions to this form.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>																																				
<p>CANCELLATION OR REFUND POLICY: Does [Name of Seller] offer a cancellation or refund policy?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES → <i>If the answer is yes, [Name of Seller] must attach a statement describing this policy to this form.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>																																				
<p>EARNINGS: Has [Name of Seller] or its salesperson discussed how much money purchasers of this business opportunity can earn or have earned? In other words, have they stated or implied that purchasers can earn a specific level of sales, income, or profit?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES → <i>If the answer is yes, [Name of Seller] must attach an Earnings Claims Statement to this form. Read this statement carefully. You may wish to show this information to an advisor or accountant.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>																																				
<p>REFERENCES: In the section below, [Name of Seller] must provide you with contact information for at least 10 people who have purchased a business opportunity from them. If fewer than 10 are listed, this is the total list of all purchasers. You may wish to contact the people below to compare their experiences with what [Name of Seller] told you about the business opportunity.</p> <p>Note: If you purchase a business opportunity from [Name of Seller], your contact information can be disclosed in the future to other potential buyers.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;"><u>Name</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;"><u>State</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;"><u>Telephone Number</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;"><u>Name</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;"><u>State</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 15%;"><u>Telephone Number</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>6.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>7.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>8.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>9.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>10.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>	1.			6.			2.			7.			3.			8.			4.			9.			5.			10.		
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Signature: _____ Date: _____

By signing above, you are acknowledging that you have received this form. This is not a purchase contract. To give you enough time to research this opportunity, the Federal Trade Commission requires that after you receive this form, [Name of Seller] must wait at least seven calendar days before asking you to sign a purchase contract or make any payments.

For more information about business opportunities in general: Visit the FTC's website at www.ftc.gov/bizopps or call 1-877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357). You can also contact your state's Attorney General.

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APPENDIX B to PART 437

DIVULGACIÓN DE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE SOBRE OPORTUNIDAD DE NEGOCIO

Formulario requerido por la Comisión Federal de Comercio (FTC)
Regla 16 de la Parte 437 del Código de Regulaciones Federales

Nombre del Vendedor: _____ Domicilio: _____
Teléfono: _____ Representante de Ventas: _____ Fecha: _____

[Nombre del Vendedor] completó el presente formulario y en el mismo le suministra información importante sobre la oportunidad de negocio que le está ofreciendo. La Comisión Federal de Comercio (*Federal Trade Commission*, FTC), una agencia del gobierno federal, le requiere a la compañía [Nombre del Vendedor] que complete el presente formulario y que se lo entregue a usted. Pero la FTC no ha visto este formulario completado por la compañía ni ha verificado que la información indicada sea veraz. **Asegúrese de que la información contenida en el presente formulario coincida con lo que le dijo el representante de ventas respecto de esta oportunidad.**

<p>ACCIONES LEGALES: ¿La compañía [Nombre del Vendedor] o alguno de los principales miembros de su personal ha sido sujeto de una acción civil o penal, que involucre falsedad, fraude, infracción de las leyes de títulos y valores, o prácticas desleales o engañosas, incluyendo infracciones de las Reglas o Normas de la FTC, dentro de los 10 últimos años?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SÍ → Si la respuesta es afirmativa, [Nombre del Vendedor] debe adjuntar al formulario una lista completa de dichas acciones legales.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>																																				
<p>POLÍTICA DE CANCELACIÓN O REINTEGRO: ¿Ofrece [Nombre del Vendedor] una política de cancelación o reintegro?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SÍ → Si la respuesta es afirmativa, [Nombre del Vendedor] debe adjuntar al formulario una declaración con la descripción de dicha política.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>																																				
<p>INGRESOS: ¿La compañía [Nombre del Vendedor] o alguno de sus representantes de ventas ha manifestado la cantidad de dinero que pueden ganar o que han ganado los compradores de esta oportunidad de negocio? ¿Dicho en otras palabras, han expresado de manera explícita o implícita que los compradores pueden alcanzar un nivel específico de ventas, o ganar un nivel específico de ingresos?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SÍ → Si la respuesta es afirmativa, [Nombre del Vendedor] debe adjuntar a este formulario una Declaración de los Ingresos Proclamados. Lea esta declaración atentamente. Puede que desee analizar esta información con un asesor o contador.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>																																				
<p>REFERENCIAS: En esta sección del formulario, [Nombre del Vendedor] debe listar la información de contacto de por lo menos 10 personas que le hayan comprado una oportunidad de negocio. Si le suministran los datos de menos de 10 personas, es porque ésa es la lista completa de todos los compradores. Puede que desee comunicarse con las personas listadas a continuación para comparar sus respectivas experiencias con lo que le dijo [Nombre del Vendedor] sobre la oportunidad de negocio que le está ofreciendo.</p> <p>Nota: Si usted compra una oportunidad de negocio de [Nombre del Vendedor], podrá divulgarse su información de contacto a otros posibles compradores.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Nombre</th> <th>Estado</th> <th>Número de Teléfono</th> <th>Nombre</th> <th>Estado</th> <th>Número de Teléfono</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>6.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>7.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>8.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>9.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>10.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Nombre	Estado	Número de Teléfono	Nombre	Estado	Número de Teléfono	1.			6.			2.			7.			3.			8.			4.			9.			5.			10.		
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Firma: _____ Fecha: _____

Por medio de su firma, usted acusa recibo del presente formulario. Esto no es un contrato de compra. La Comisión Federal de Comercio (FTC) establece que con el fin de concederle el tiempo necesario para que usted investigue esta oportunidad, [Nombre del Vendedor] debe esperar un mínimo de siete días naturales o corridos a partir de la fecha en que le entregue este formulario antes de pedirle que firme un contrato de compra o que efectúe un pago.

Para más información sobre oportunidades de negocio en general: Visite el sitio Web de la FTC www.ftc.gov/bizopp o llame al 1-877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357). Usted también puede establecer contacto con el Fiscal General de su estado de residencia.

PART 444—CREDIT PRACTICES

- 444.2 Unfair credit practices.
 - 444.3 Unfair or deceptive cosigner practices.
 - 444.4 Late charges.
 - 444.5 State exemptions.
- Sec.
444.1 Definitions.