

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION, et al.;

Plaintiffs,

vs.

ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY SERVICES,  
INC., a Michigan corporation, also d/b/a  
A.C. SERVICES, et al.;

Defendants.

Case No. 2:21-cv-10174-DML-CI  
Judge David M. Lawson  
Magistrate Judge Curtis Ivy, Jr.

**STIPULATION RE ORDER  
FOR PERMANENT  
INJUNCTION AND  
MONETARY JUDGMENT  
AGAINST DIRECTELE, INC.,  
THE DALE CORPORATION,  
NIKOLE GILSTORF, AND  
ANTONIO LIA**

Plaintiffs, the Federal Trade Commission (“Commission” or “FTC”) and the Attorneys General of the states of Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, and the District of Columbia; the Secretaries of State of Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, and Tennessee; and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Utah Division of Consumer Protection (collectively “Plaintiffs”), have filed their Complaint in this matter against Associated Community Services, Inc., Central

Processing Services, LLC, Community Services Appeal, LLC, The Dale Corporation, Directele, Inc., Robert William Burland, Richard T. Cole, Amy Burland, Barbara Cole, John Lucidi, Nikole Gilstorf, Antonio Lia, and Scot Stepek. The Complaint sought a permanent injunction and other equitable relief in this matter, pursuant to Sections 13(b) and 19 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (“FTC Act”), 15 U.S.C. §§ 53(b) and 57b, Section 6 of the Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act (“Telemarketing Act”), 15 U.S.C. § 6105, and the unfair and deceptive acts and practices and charitable solicitation laws of the State Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs and Defendants Directele, Inc., The Dale Corporation, Nikole Gilstorf, and Antonio Lia stipulate to the entry of a Stipulated Order for Permanent Injunction and Monetary Judgment (“Order”) to resolve all matters in dispute in this action between Plaintiffs and Defendants Directele, Inc., The Dale Corporation, Nikole Gilstorf, and Antonio Lia.

THEREFORE, IT IS STIPULATED as follows:

### **FINDINGS**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. The Complaint charges that Defendants Directele, Inc., The Dale Corporation, Nikole Gilstorf, and Antonio Lia, and others, engaged in deceptive acts or practices by making false or misleading claims in charitable solicitations on behalf of numerous nonprofit organizations in violation of Section 5 of the FTC

Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, the state statutes listed below, and Sections 310.3(a)(4), 310.3(b), and 310.3(d)(1), (3), and (4) of the Telemarketing Sales Rule (“TSR”), 16 C.F.R. §§ 310.3(a)(4), 310.3(b), and 310.3(d)(1), (3), and (4), and engaged in abusive telemarketing practices by repeatedly or continuously causing a telephone to ring and by delivering prerecorded messages in outbound telephone calls, in violation of Sections 310.4(b)(1)(i) and 310.4(b) of the TSR.

STATE STATUTES ALLEGEDLY VIOLATED BY DEFENDANTS	
Alabama	ALA. CODE §§ 8-19-1 through -15; and §§ 13A-9-70 through 76.
California	CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17200 through 17206, and §§ 17510 through 17510.95; CAL. GOV. CODE §§ 12580 through 12599.8.
Colorado	COLO. REV. STAT. §§ 6-1-101 through 115; and §§ 6-16-101 through 114.
Connecticut	CONN. GEN. STAT. §§ 21a-175 through 21a-190l; and §§ 42-110a through 42-110q.
Delaware	DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 6, § 2513(a) (1998); tit. 6, § 2532(a) (1995); and tit. 6, §§ 2595(a) – (b) (1995).
Florida	FLA. STAT. ch. 501, pt. II; and ch. 496 (2020).
Georgia	GA. CODE ANN. §§ 10-1-390 through 10-1-408 (2017); and §§ 43-17-1 through 43-17-23 (2016).
Illinois	225 ILL. COMP. STAT. §§ 460/0.01 through 460/23.
Indiana	IND. CODE §§ 24-5-0.5-1 through 12.
Kansas	KAN. STAT. ANN. §§ 17-1759 through 17-1776.
Kentucky	KY. REV. STAT. ANN. §§ 367.110 through 367.993.
Louisiana	LA. REV. STAT. ANN. §§ 51:1401 through 1427; and §§ 51:1901 through 1909.1.
Maine	ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 5, § 207 (2019).
Maryland	MD. CODE ANN., BUS. REG. §§ 6-101 through 6-701 (LexisNexis 2015 and 2020 Suppl.).
Massachusetts	MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 68 § 32 and ch. 93A § 2.
Michigan	MICH. COMP. LAWS §§ 400.271 through 400.294.

Missouri	MO. REV. STAT. ch. 407.
Montana	MONT. CODE ANN. §§ 30-14-103 and 30-14-111.
Nebraska	NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 21-1901 through 21-19,177; §§ 59-1601 through 59-1622; and §§ 87-301 through 87-306.
Nevada	NEV. REV. STAT. §§ 598.1305, 598.0915(15), 598.096, and 598.0963.
New Hampshire	N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. §§ 7:19; 7:20; 7:21; 7:24; 7:28; 7:28-c; 7:28-f; and 641:8.
New Jersey	N.J. STAT. ANN. §§ 45:17A-18 through 45:17A-40; 56:8-1 through 56:8-226; and N.J. ADMIN. CODE §§ 13:48-1.1 through 13:48-15.1.
New Mexico	N.M. STAT. §§ 57-12-1 through 57-12-22; and §§ 57-22-1 through 57-22-11 (1978).
New York	N.Y. EXEC. LAW §§ 63(12) and 171-a through 175; N.Y. GEN. BUS. LAW § 349; and N.Y. NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORP. LAW § 112.
North Carolina	N.C. GEN. STAT. §§ 75-1.1, 75-102 to 75-104, 131F-20, and 131F-21.
Ohio	OHIO REV. CODE ANN. ch. 1716.
Oklahoma	OKLA. STAT. ANN. tit. 18 §§ 552.1 through 552.22.
Oregon	OR. REV. STAT. §§ 128.886; and 646.605 through 646.636.
Pennsylvania	10 PA. STAT. §§ 162.1 through 162.23.
Tennessee	TENN. CODE ANN. §§ 48-101-501 through 48-101-522.
Texas	TEX. BUS. & COM. CODE ANN. §§ 17.41 through 17.63.
Utah	UTAH CODE ANN. §§ 13-22-1 through 13-22-23; 13-26-1 through 13-26-11-1; and 13-11 through 13-11-23.
Virginia	VA. CODE ANN. §§ 57-48 through 57-69.
Washington	WASH. REV. CODE §§ 19.86, 19.09, and 80.36.
West Virginia	W.VA. CODE §§ 29-19-1 -15b; and §§ 46A-1-101 through 46A-6-110.
Wisconsin	WIS. STAT. §§ 202.11 through 202.18.
Wyoming	WYO. STAT. ANN. §§ 40-12-101 through 114.

3. Defendants Directele, Inc., The Dale Corporation, Nikole Gilstorf, and Antonio Lia neither admit nor deny any of the allegations in the Complaint, except

as specifically stated in this Stipulation. Only for purposes of this action, Directele, Inc., The Dale Corporation, Nikole Gilstorf, and Antonio Lia admit the facts necessary to establish jurisdiction.

4. Defendants Directele, Inc., The Dale Corporation, Nikole Gilstorf, and Antonio Lia waive any claims that they may have under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, concerning the prosecution of this action through the date of the Order, and agree to bear their own costs and attorney fees.

5. Defendants Directele, Inc., The Dale Corporation, Nikole Gilstorf, and Antonio Lia waive all rights to appeal or otherwise challenge or contest the validity of the Order.

6. Entry of the Order is in the public interest.

### **DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Stipulation, the following definitions apply:

A. **“Settling Defendants”** means the Corporate Defendants Directele, Inc. and The Dale Corporation and Individual Defendants Nikole Gilstorf (a/k/a Nikole Luton and/or Nikole Dicks) and Antonio “Tony” Lia.

B. **“Corporate Defendants”** means the corporate defendants Directele, Inc., and The Dale Corporation.

C. **“Individual Defendants”** means the individual defendants Nikole Gilstorf (a/k/a Nikole Luton and/or Nikole Dicks) and Antonio “Tony” Lia.

1. **“Defendant Gilstorf”** means the individual defendant Nikole Gilstorf (a/k/a Nikole Luton and/or Nikole Dicks).

2. **“Defendant Lia”** means the individual defendant Antonio “Tony” Lia.

D. **“Defendants”** means Associated Community Services, Inc., also d/b/a A.C. Services (ACS); Central Processing Services, LLC (CPS); Community Services Appeal, LLC (“CSA”); The Dale Corporation; Directele, Inc.; Robert William “Bill” Burland; Richard “Dick” T. Cole; Amy Burland; Barbara Cole; John Lucidi; Nikole Gilstorf (a/k/a Nikole Luton and/or Nikole Dicks); Antonio “Tony” Lia; and Scot Stepek.

E. **“Plaintiffs”** means the Commission and the State Plaintiffs (including each state), individually, collectively, or in any combination.

F. **“State Plaintiffs”** means the Attorneys General of the states of Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, and the District of Columbia; the Secretaries of State of Colorado,

Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, and Tennessee; and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Utah Division of Consumer Protection.

G. **“Clear(ly) and conspicuous(ly)”** means that a required disclosure is difficult to miss (i.e., easily noticeable) and easily understandable by ordinary individuals, including in all of the following ways:

1. In any communication that is solely visual or solely audible, the disclosure must be made through the same means through which the communication is presented. In any communication made through both visual and audible means, such as a television advertisement, the disclosure must be presented simultaneously in both the visual and audible portions of the communication even if the representation requiring the disclosure is made in only one means.

2. A visual disclosure, by its size, contrast, location, the length of time it appears, and other characteristics, must stand out from any accompanying text or other visual elements so that it is easily noticed, read, and understood.

3. An audible disclosure, including by telephone or streaming video, must be delivered in a volume, speed, and cadence sufficient for ordinary individuals to easily hear and understand it.

4. In any communication using an interactive electronic medium, such as the Internet or software, the disclosure must be unavoidable.

5. The disclosure must use diction and syntax understandable to ordinary individuals and must appear in each language in which the representation that requires the disclosure appears.

6. The disclosure must comply with these requirements in each medium through which it is received, including all electronic devices and face-to-face communications.

7. The disclosure must not be contradicted or mitigated by, or inconsistent with, anything else in the communication.

8. When the representation, sales practice, or fundraising solicitation impacts a specific audience, such as children, the elderly, or the terminally ill, “ordinary individuals” includes reasonable members of that group.

H. **“Contribution”** means any donation or gift of money or any other thing of value, except that this definition does not include contributions made to support or oppose a specific candidate for public office, a political party, or a ballot measure.

I. **“Donor”** means any Person solicited to make a Contribution.



J. **“Fundraising”** means a plan, program, or campaign that is conducted to induce Contributions to Nonprofit Organizations by mail, telephone, electronic mail, social media, or any other means.

K. **“Fundraising Services”** means providing assistance in Fundraising, directly or indirectly, including by advising, assisting, acting as a broker, independent contractor, or fundraising consultant; investing in, planning, supplying or arranging for the supply of contact or Donor lists; arranging for any Person to contract or otherwise affiliate with any Nonprofit Organization for the purpose of Fundraising; or providing or arranging for the provision of marketing services (e.g., creating or advising on solicitation materials), printing, customer service, caging, escrow, payment processing, mail processing, or fulfillment services to any Nonprofit Organization.

L. **“Nonprofit Organization”** means any entity or other Person that has, or is represented to have, a benevolent or charitable purpose or operates for the promotion of social welfare without primary regard for profit, including but not limited to any entity or other Person that benefits, or purports to benefit, either in whole or in part, expressly or indirectly, through education, advocacy, lobbying, or otherwise, causes related to law enforcement officers (e.g., police, sheriffs, constables, or agents), firefighters, emergency medical technicians (“EMTs”), or other first responders and their families; members or veterans of the armed forces

and their families; individuals suffering from cancer or other diseases or disorders and their families; research or treatment related to cancer or other diseases or disorders; or missing children and their families. The term “Nonprofit Organization” excludes any entity or other Person that does not have a charitable purpose and that is engaged in political influence campaigns that benefit or purport to benefit causes unrelated to law enforcement officers (e.g., police, sheriffs, constables, or agents), firefighters, emergency medical technicians (“EMTs”), or other first responders, and their families; members or veterans of the armed forces and their families; individuals suffering from cancer or other diseases or disorders, and their families; research or treatment related to cancer or other diseases or disorders; or missing children and their families.

M. **“Outbound Telephone Call”** means a telephone call initiated to induce the purchase of goods or services or to solicit a Contribution.

N. **“Person”** means any individual, group, organization, unincorporated association, limited or general partnership, corporation, or other legal entity.

O. **“Telemarketing”** means any plan, program, or campaign that is conducted to induce the purchase of goods or services or to solicit a Contribution by use of one or more telephones and which involves a telephone call, whether or not covered by the Telemarketing Sales Rule.

## **STIPULATION**

### **I. BAN ON FUNDRAISING**

IT IS STIPULATED that Settling Defendants are permanently restrained and enjoined from Fundraising or providing Fundraising Services to any Nonprofit Organization, whether directly or indirectly. This includes controlling, directly or indirectly, holding an ownership interest in, or receiving any payment or other financial benefit from any Person engaged in Fundraising or the provision of Fundraising Services.

### **II. BAN ON ROBOCALLS**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that Settling Defendants are permanently restrained and enjoined from:

A. Initiating, causing others to initiate, or assisting others in initiating, any Outbound Telephone Call that plays or delivers a prerecorded message, including, but not limited to, any Outbound Telephone Call that uses soundboard technology to play prerecorded audio clips, whether acting directly or through an intermediary, unless the Settling Defendant(s) prove(s) that such prerecorded message was delivered for the purpose of compliance with 16 C.F.R.

§ 310.4(b)(4)(iii);

B. Controlling, holding a managerial post in, consulting for, serving as an officer, having any revenue sharing agreement with, or holding any ownership

interest, share, or stock in any company that engages in conduct prohibited in Subsection II.A above. *Provided, however*, that it is not a violation of the Order to own a non-controlling interest in a publicly-traded company that engages in such conduct.

### **III. PROHIBITION AGAINST ABUSIVE CALLING PRACTICES**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that Settling Defendants, Settling Defendants' officers, agents, employees, and all other Persons in active concert or participation with them, who receive actual notice of the Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with Telemarketing, are permanently restrained and enjoined from engaging in, causing others to engage in, or assisting others to engage in, any of the following practices:

A. 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; or

B. Initiating any Outbound Telephone Call to a Person when that Person has previously stated that he or she does not wish to receive a telephone call from the Person initiating the call or the Person on whose behalf the call is initiated.

#### **IV. PROHIBITION AGAINST MISREPRESENTATIONS**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that Settling Defendants, Settling Defendants' officers, agents, employees, and all other Persons in active concert or participation with them, who receive actual notice of the Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with promoting or offering for sale any good or service, or soliciting a Contribution, are permanently restrained and enjoined from misrepresenting, or assisting others in misrepresenting, expressly or by implication:

- A. The nature or purpose of any good, service, or Contribution, or the nature, purpose, or mission of any Person on whose behalf the Settling Defendant(s) are soliciting Contributions;
- B. That any Contribution is tax deductible, in whole or in part;
- C. The purpose for which any Contribution will be used;
- D. The percentage or amount of any Contribution that will go to any Person or to any particular program or activity of the Person on whose behalf Contributions are being solicited; and
- E. Any fact material to consumers' decisions concerning any good or service or the use of a Contribution by any Person.

**V. MANDATORY DISCLOSURE THAT CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that Settling Defendants, Settling Defendants' officers, agents, employees, and all other Persons in active concert or participation with them, who receive actual notice of the Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with soliciting for Contributions that are not tax-deductible, are permanently restrained and enjoined from failing to disclose, Clearly and Conspicuously, and prior to requesting any Contribution, orally or in writing, that any such Contribution is not deductible for federal and/or state income tax purposes as a charitable donation.

**VI. PROHIBITION ON VIOLATING THE TELEMARKETING SALES RULE**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that Settling Defendants, Settling Defendants' officers, agents, and employees, and all other Persons in active concert or participation with them, who receive actual notice of the Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, are permanently restrained and enjoined from engaging in, causing others to engage in, or assisting others engaging in violating the Telemarketing Sales Rule, 16 C.F.R. Part 310, a copy of which is attached to the Order as Attachment A.

## VII. COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that Settling Defendants, Settling Defendants' officers, agents, employees, and all other Persons in active concert or participation with them, who receive actual notice of the Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with the sale of any good or service or soliciting Contributions, are permanently restrained and enjoined from violating, causing others to violate, or assisting others in violating any provision of the following state laws:

Alabama	ALA. CODE §§ 8-19-1 through -15; and §§ 13A-9-70 through 76.
California	CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17200 through 17206, and §§ 17510 through 17510.95; CAL. GOV. CODE §§ 12580 through 12599.8.
Colorado	COLO. REV. STAT. §§ 6-1-101 through 115; and §§ 6-16-101 through 114.
Connecticut	CONN. GEN. STAT. §§ 21a-175 through 21a-190l; and §§ 42-110a through 42-110q.
Delaware	DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 6, § 2513(a) (1998); tit. 6, § 2532(a) (1995); and tit. 6, §§ 2595(a) – (b) (1995).
Florida	FLA. STAT. ch. 501, pt. II; and ch. 496 (2020).
Georgia	GA. CODE ANN. §§ 10-1-390 through 10-1-408 (2017); and §§ 43-17-1 through 43-17-23 (2016).
Illinois	225 ILL. COMP. STAT. §§ 460/0.01 through 460/23.
Indiana	IND. CODE §§ 24-5-0.5-1 through 12.
Iowa	IOWA CODE § 714.16.
Kansas	KAN. STAT. ANN. §§ 17-1759 through 17-1776.
Kentucky	KY. REV. STAT. ANN. §§ 367.110 through 367.993.
Louisiana	LA. REV. STAT. ANN. §§ 51:1401 through 1427; and §§ 51:1901 through 1909.1.
Maine	ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 5, § 207 and tit. 10, § 1499-A (2019).

Maryland	MD. CODE ANN., BUS. REG. §§ 6-101 through 6-701 (LexisNexis 2015 and 2020 Suppl.).
Massachusetts	MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 68 § 32 and ch. 93A § 2.
Michigan	MICH. COMP. LAWS §§ 400.271 through 400.294.
Missouri	MO. REV. STAT. ch. 407.
Montana	MONT. CODE ANN. §§ 30-14-103 and 30-14-111.
Nebraska	NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 21-1901 through 21-19,177; §§ 59-1601 through 59-1622; and §§ 87-301 through 87-306.
Nevada	NEV. REV. STAT. §§ 598.1305, 598.0915(15), 598.096, and 598.0963.
New Hampshire	N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. §§ 7:19; 7:20; 7:21; 7:24; 7:28; 7:28-c; 7:28-f; and 641:8.
New Jersey	N.J. STAT. ANN. §§ 45:17A-18 through 45:17A-40; 56:8-1 through 56:8-226; and N.J. ADMIN. CODE §§ 13:48-1.1 through 13:48-15.1.
New Mexico	N.M. STAT. §§ 57-12-1 through 57-12-22; and §§ 57-22-1 through 57-22-11 (1978).
New York	N.Y. EXEC. LAW §§ 63(12) and 171-a through 175; N.Y. GEN. BUS. LAW § 349; and N.Y. NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORP. LAW § 112.
North Carolina	N.C. GEN. STAT. §§ 75-14, 75-15.1, and 131F-1 to 131F-33.
Ohio	OHIO REV. CODE ANN. ch. 1716.
Oklahoma	OKLA. STAT. ANN. tit. 18 §§ 552.1 through 552.22.
Oregon	OR. REV. STAT. §§ 128.886; and 646.605 through 646.636.
Pennsylvania	10 PA. CONS. STAT. §§ 162.1 through 162.23 (1990).
Tennessee	TENN. CODE ANN. §§ 48-101-501 through 48-101-522.
Texas	TEX. BUS. & COM. CODE ANN. §§ 17.41 through 17.63.
Utah	UTAH CODE ANN. §§ 13-22-1 through 13-22-23; 13-26-1 through 13-26-11; and 13-11-1 through 13-11-23.
Virginia	VA. CODE ANN. §§ 57-48 through 57-69.
Washington	WASH. REV. CODE §§ 19.86, 19.09, and 80.36.
West Virginia	W.VA. CODE §§ 29-19-1 -15b; and §§ 46A-1-101 through 46A-6-110.
Wisconsin	WIS. STAT. §§ 202.11 through 202.18.
Wyoming	WYO. STAT. ANN. §§ 40-12-101 through 114.



## VIII. COOPERATION

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that Settling Defendants:

A. Shall cooperate fully with Plaintiffs' representatives in this case, including in any investigation into compliance by any of the Defendants with the Order, and in any investigation related to or associated with the conduct, transactions, occurrences, telephone calls, pre-recorded messages, or Persons that are the subject of the Complaint. Settling Defendants must provide truthful and complete information, evidence, and testimony. Settling Defendants must appear for interviews, discovery, hearings, trials, and any other proceedings that any Plaintiff's representative may reasonably request upon seven days' written notice, or other reasonable notice, at such places and times as each Plaintiff's representative may designate, without the service of a subpoena.

B. Further, to assist the Plaintiffs with any investigation related to or associated with the transactions or the occurrences that are the subject of the Complaint, and with monitoring Settling Defendants' compliance with the Order, Settling Defendants consent, for purposes of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, in relevant part at 18 U.S.C. §§ 2701-2712, to the disclosure by electronic communications service providers and remote computing service providers of the contents of their auto-dialed, Telemarketing, or prerecorded telephone communications and records or other information pertaining to their

auto-dialed, Telemarketing, or prerecorded telephone communications. Settling Defendants further agree to execute, within five days of a request from any Plaintiff's representative, any forms or other documents evidencing their consent that may be required by such electronic communications service providers or remote computing service providers.

### **IX. DONOR INFORMATION**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that Settling Defendants and Settling Defendants' officers, agents, employees, and all other Persons in active concert or participation with them, who receive actual notice of the Order, are permanently restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly:

- A. Disclosing, using, or benefitting from any information about any Donor solicited by Defendants ACS, CPS, CSA, Directele, Inc., or The Dale Corporation, including the name, address, telephone number, email address, social security number, other identifying information, or any data that enables access to a Donor's account (including a credit card, bank account, or other financial account);
- B. Failing to destroy such Donor information in all forms in their possession, custody, or control within 10 days after entry of the Order; and
- C. Failing to provide a sworn statement certifying they have destroyed such Donor information in all forms in their possession, custody, or control within 15 days after entry of the Order.

*Provided, however*, that Donor information need not be disposed of, and may be disclosed, to the extent requested by a government agency or required by law, regulation, or court order.

**X. MONETARY JUDGMENT AND PARTIAL SUSPENSION**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that judgment be entered against Settling Defendants as follows:

A. Judgment in the amount of One Million Six Hundred Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Four dollars and no cents (\$1,611,864.00) is entered in favor of Plaintiffs against Settling Defendants as equitable monetary relief.

B. Separately, judgment in the amount of One Hundred Ten Million Sixty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Three Dollars and no cents (\$110,063,843.00) is entered in favor of Plaintiffs against Individual Defendants as equitable monetary relief.

C. Defendant Gilstorf shall pay Ten Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$10,000.00). Defendant Gilstorf shall pay Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and no cents (\$2,500.00) of this sum within three (3) days of entry of the Order and shall make three additional payments of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) within sixty (60), one hundred and twenty (120), and one hundred and eighty days (180), respectively. This sum will be paid to

one or more charities as a Contribution as set forth below in paragraph X.L, following subsequent motion by the State Plaintiffs and order of this Court.

D. Defendant Lia shall pay Ten Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$10,000.00). Defendant Lia shall pay Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and no cents (\$2,500.00) of this sum within three (3) days of entry of the Order and shall make three additional payments of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and no cents (\$2,500.00) within sixty (60), one hundred and twenty (120), and one hundred and eighty days (180), respectively. This sum will be paid to one or more charities as a Contribution as set forth below in paragraph X.L, following subsequent motion by the State Plaintiffs and order of this Court.

E. To secure the payments over time under Paragraphs X.C and X.D, the Individual Defendants shall take the following steps:

1. To secure her performance under Paragraph X.C, Defendant Gilstorf hereby grants to Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission a lien on and security interest in her Gibraltar, Michigan residence disclosed on her Financial Statement executed on February 12, 2020 in the value of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and no cents (\$7,500.00). Defendant Gilstorf represents and acknowledges that the Plaintiffs are relying on the material representations that she is the sole owner of the property; that title to the property is marketable; and that the property is not encumbered by any lien,

mortgage, deed of trust, assignment, pledge, security interest, or other interest except for the lien, mortgage or security interest identified in the Financial Statement of Defendant Gilstorf executed on February 12, 2020;

2. To secure his performance under Paragraph X.D, Defendant Lia hereby grants to Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission a lien on and security interest in his Macomb, Michigan residence disclosed on his Financial Statement executed on February 13, 2020 in the value of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and no cents (\$7,500.00). Defendant Lia represents and acknowledges that the Plaintiffs are relying on the material representations that he owns the property jointly with his spouse and no other person(s); that his spouse is aware of and has agreed to the recording of this lien; that title to the property is marketable; and that the property is not encumbered by any lien, mortgage, deed of trust, assignment, pledge, security interest, or other interest except for the lien, mortgage or security interest identified in the Financial Statement of Defendant Lia executed on February 13, 2020;

3. Individual Defendants shall cooperate fully with the Commission in the perfection of its liens and security interests in their respective properties, and be responsible for preparing, executing, and recording the necessary documents and taking other actions necessary to perfect the Commission's voluntary lien on and security interest in the

respective properties. Individual Defendants shall each be responsible for paying all costs relating to the preparation, execution, delivery, filing, recording, and termination of the voluntary liens on and security interests in their respective properties. Individual Defendants shall each deliver to the Commission copies of all recording documents used to perfect the Commission's voluntary lien on and security interest in their respective properties within ten days from the date of entry of the Order;

4. If either Individual Defendant does not or cannot take all necessary steps to perfect the Commission's lien and security interest in their respective property within ten (10) days of entry of the Order, including due to the objection or non-cooperation of a co-owner, that Individual Defendant shall pay the full amount due under Paragraph X.C or X.D, respectively, within ten (10) days of entry of the Order.

F. Individual Defendants stipulate that their undersigned counsel holds the monies owed for the initial payments pursuant to Paragraphs X.C and X.D in a client trust account for no purpose other than payment to the Florida Department of Legal Affairs Escrow Fund ("Florida Escrow Fund").

G. The monies owed by Individual Defendants and held in a client trust account by their undersigned counsel shall be transferred within three (3) days of entry of the Order to the Florida Escrow Fund, which shall hold this amount for no

purpose other than future payment to one or more charities as a Contribution, unless otherwise ordered by this Court. This transfer shall be made by wire transfer, cashier's check, or other certified funds made payable to the Florida Department of Legal Affairs Escrow Fund.

H. Upon completion of all payments and requirements described in Paragraphs X.C, X.D, and X.E, the remainder of the judgment is suspended as to all Settling Defendants, subject to Paragraphs X.I and X.J.

I. Plaintiffs' agreement to the suspension of part of the judgment is expressly premised upon the truthfulness, accuracy, and completeness of Settling Defendants' sworn financial statements and related documents (collectively referred to as "Financial Representations") submitted to the Plaintiffs, namely:

1. As to Corporate Defendants:
  - a. Financial statement of Directele, Inc., executed on February 12, 2020, and attachments thereto;
  - b. Financial statement of The Dale Corporation, executed on February 12, 2020, and attachments thereto; and
  - c. Supplemental information and documents provided to the Commission on behalf of Corporate Defendants by their

undersigned counsel on June 5, 2020, June 18, 2020, June 22, 2020, December 22, 2020, and December 23, 2020; and

2. As to Defendant Gilstorf:

a. Financial statement of Nikole Gilstorf, executed on February 12, 2020;

b. Declaration of Nikole Gilstorf, executed on December 21, 2020; and

c. Supplemental information and documents provided to the Commission on behalf of Defendant Gilstorf by her undersigned counsel on June 4, 2020, June 5, 2020, June 9, 2020, June 18, 2020, June 22, 2020, June 25, 2020, June 26, 2020; and

3. As to Defendant Lia:

a. Financial statement of Antonio Lia, executed on February 12, 2020;

b. Declaration of Antonio Lia, executed on December 21, 2020; and

c. Supplemental information and documents provided to the Commission on behalf of Defendant Lia by his undersigned counsel on June 4, 2020, June 9, 2020, and June 25, 2020.



J. The suspension of the judgment as to any Settling Defendant will be lifted if, upon motion by any Plaintiff, the Court finds that such Settling Defendant failed to disclose any material asset, materially misstated the value of any asset, or made any other material misstatement or omission in the Financial Representations identified above.

K. If the suspension of the judgment is lifted as to any Settling Defendant, the judgment becomes immediately due in the amount specified in Paragraph X.A (which the parties stipulate only for purposes of this Section represents the consumer injury that the Complaint alleges was caused by Directele, Inc., and The Dale Corporation, and for which Settling Defendants are jointly and severally liable) and, if the suspension of the judgment is lifted as to any Individual Defendant, Paragraph X.B (which the parties stipulate only for purposes of this Section represents the consumer injury that the Complaint alleges was caused by ACS, CPS, and CSA, and for which Individual Defendants are jointly and severally liable), less any payment previously made by Settling Defendants pursuant to this Section (as to the judgment in Paragraph X.A), or by ACS, CPS, CSA, Robert William “Bill” Burland, Richard “Dick” T. Cole, Amy Burland, Barbara Cole, Scot Stepek, and/or John Lucidi pursuant to any other order entered in connection with this matter (as to the judgment in Paragraph X.B), plus interest

computed from the date of entry of the Order. Payments on the judgment shall be made to the Florida Escrow Fund if the Court has not approved one or more charities to receive the Contribution pursuant to Paragraph X.L. Such payments shall be made by wire transfer, cashier's check, or other certified funds made payable to the Florida Department of Legal Affairs Escrow Fund. If the Court has approved one or more charities to receive a Contribution pursuant to Paragraph X.L, then any such payments shall be made to the approved charities.

L. The State Plaintiffs shall identify one or more charities to recommend to this Court as suitable to receive a Contribution. Within ninety days of entry of the Order, the State Plaintiffs shall submit to this Court a motion and proposed order recommending one or more recipients for the Contribution, the amount to be paid to any approved recipient, and the manner and timeframe for such payment. All monies paid by Settling Defendants and held in the Florida Escrow Fund shall be distributed only as authorized and directed by this Court. Settling Defendants shall have no right to challenge any recommendations regarding any Contribution or monetary distribution made by the State Plaintiffs.

M. Settling Defendants understand that any Contribution to a charity described herein is being made in lieu of consumer restitution and not on behalf of Settling Defendants. Therefore, Settling Defendants stipulates that they will not

claim any tax deduction, credit, or other benefit related to any Contribution to a charity discussed in the Order.

## **XI. ADDITIONAL MONETARY PROVISIONS**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that:

A. Settling Defendants relinquish dominion and all legal and equitable right, title, and interest in all assets transferred pursuant to the Order and may not seek the return of any assets.

B. The facts alleged in the Complaint will be taken as true, without further proof, in any subsequent civil or administrative litigation by or on behalf of any Plaintiff, including (i) in a proceeding to enforce the right to any payment or monetary judgment pursuant to the Order, such as a nondischargeability complaint in any bankruptcy case, (ii) in any bond enforcement action by any State Plaintiff, and (iii) in any action by the State of Michigan or any order by a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Michigan to dissolve the Corporate Defendants.

C. The facts alleged in the Complaint establish all elements necessary to sustain an action by any Plaintiff pursuant to Section 523(a)(2)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(2)(A), and the Order will have collateral estoppel effect for such purposes.

D. Individual Defendants acknowledge that their Social Security Numbers, which they previously submitted to Plaintiffs, may be used for collecting

and reporting on any delinquent amount arising out of the Order, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. §7701.

## **XII. ORDER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that Settling Defendants obtain acknowledgments of receipt of the Order:

A. The Settling Defendants, within seven days of entry of the Order, each must submit to Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission an acknowledgment of receipt of the Order sworn under penalty of perjury.

B. For fifteen years after entry of the Order, each Individual Defendant, for any business that s/he, individually or collectively with any other Defendant named in this matter, is the majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, must deliver a copy of the Order to: (1) all principals, officers, directors, and LLC managers and members; (2) all employees having managerial responsibilities for Telemarketing and all agents and representatives who participate in Telemarketing; and (3) any business entity resulting from any change in structure as set forth in the Section titled Compliance Reporting. Delivery must occur within seven days of entry of the Order for current personnel. For all others, delivery must occur before they assume their responsibilities.

C. From each individual or entity to which the Individual Defendants delivered a copy of the Order, the Individual Defendants must obtain, within thirty days, a signed and dated acknowledgment of receipt of the Order.

### **XIII. COMPLIANCE REPORTING**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that Settling Defendants make timely submissions to the FTC and, on behalf of the State Plaintiffs, the Office of the Michigan Attorney General:

A. One year after entry of the Order, each Settling Defendant must submit a compliance report, sworn under penalty of perjury:

1. The Settling Defendant must: (a) identify the primary physical, postal, and email address and telephone number, as designated points of contact, which representatives of the Commission and the Plaintiff States may use to communicate with each of them; (b) identify all of their businesses by all of their names, telephone numbers, and physical, postal, email, and Internet addresses; (c) describe the activities of each business, including the goods and services offered or Telemarketing conducted, the means of advertising, marketing, sales, and Telemarketing, and the involvement of any other Defendant (which Settling Defendant must describe if s/he knows or should know due to her/his own involvement); (d) describe in detail whether and how they are in compliance with each Section of the

Order; and (e) provide a copy of each Order Acknowledgment obtained pursuant to the Order, unless previously submitted to the FTC and the Office of the Michigan Attorney General .

2. Additionally, Individual Defendants must: (a) identify all telephone numbers and all physical, postal, email and Internet addresses, including all residences; (b) identify all business activities, including any business for which Individual Defendant performs services whether as an employee or otherwise, and any entity in which that Individual Defendant has any ownership interest; and (c) describe in detail Individual Defendant's involvement in each such business, including title, role, responsibilities, participation, authority, control, and any ownership.

B. For fifteen years after entry of the Order, Settling Defendants must submit a compliance notice, sworn under penalty of perjury, within 14 days of any change in the following:

1. Settling Defendants must report any change in: (a) any designated point of contact; or (b) the structure of any Corporate Defendant or any entity that any Settling Defendant has any ownership interest in or controls directly or indirectly that may affect compliance obligations arising under the Order, including: creation, merger, sale, or dissolution of the entity

or any subsidiary, parent, or affiliate that engages in any acts or practices subject to the Order.

2. Additionally, Individual Defendants must report any change in:

- (a) name, including aliases or fictitious name, or residence address; or
- (b) title or role in any business activity, including any business for which that Individual Defendant performs services whether as an employee or otherwise, and any entity in which that Individual Defendant has any ownership interest, and identify the name, physical address, and any Internet address of the business or entity.

C. Settling Defendants must submit to the Commission and to the Office of the Michigan Attorney General notice of the filing of any bankruptcy petition, insolvency proceeding, or similar proceeding by or against such Defendant within 14 days of its filing.

D. Any submission required by the Order to be sworn under penalty of perjury must be true and accurate and comply with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, such as by concluding: “I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on: \_\_\_\_\_” and supplying the date, signatory’s full name, title (if applicable), and signature.

E. Unless otherwise directed by a Commission representative in writing, all submissions to the Commission pursuant to the Order must be emailed to DEbrief@ftc.gov or sent by overnight courier (not the U.S. Postal Service) to:

Associate Director for Enforcement,  
Bureau of Consumer Protection,  
Federal Trade Commission,  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,  
Washington, DC 20580.

The subject line must begin: FTC, et al. v. Associated Community Services, Inc., et al., Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

F. Unless otherwise directed in writing by a representative of the Office of the Michigan Attorney General, all submissions to the Office of the Michigan Attorney General pursuant to the Order must be emailed to AG-COD@michigan.gov or sent to:

Michigan Department of Attorney General  
Corporate Oversight Division  
PO Box 30736  
Lansing, MI 48909

The subject line must begin: FTC, et al. v. Associated Community Services, Inc., et al. Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

G. Settling Defendants expressly consent to the sharing of any and all documents submitted as part of his compliance reporting to any Plaintiff with all other Plaintiffs.



#### **XIV. RECORDKEEPING**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that Settling Defendants must create certain records for fifteen years after entry of the Order, and retain each such record for five years. Specifically, Corporate Defendants, and each Individual Defendant for any business that, individually or collectively with any other Defendant, s/he is a majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, must create and retain the following records:

- A. Accounting records showing the revenues from all goods or services sold, or Telemarketing;
- B. Personnel records showing, for each individual providing services, whether as an employee or otherwise, that individual's name; addresses; telephone numbers; job title or position; dates of service; and (if applicable) the reason for termination;
- C. Records of all consumer or Donor complaints and refund requests, whether received directly or indirectly, such as through a third party, and any response;
- D. All records necessary to demonstrate full compliance with each provision of the Order, including all submissions to the Commission and to the State of Michigan;
- E. A copy of each unique advertisement or other marketing material; and

F. Settling Defendants shall provide any records created and retained as a result of the Order to any Plaintiff upon request within ten days of the receipt of such request.

## **XV. COMPLIANCE MONITORING**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that, for the purpose of monitoring Settling Defendants' compliance with the Order, and any failure to transfer any assets as required by the Order:

A. Within fourteen days of receipt of a written request from a representative of any Plaintiff, Settling Defendants must: submit additional compliance reports or other requested information, which must be sworn under penalty of perjury; appear for depositions; and produce documents for inspection and copying. Each Plaintiff is also authorized to obtain discovery, without further leave of court, using any of the procedures prescribed by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 29, 30 (including telephonic depositions), 31, 33, 34, 36, 45, and 69. Nothing in the Order limits any Plaintiff's lawful demand for documents or other evidence pursuant to applicable law.

B. For matters concerning the Order, each Plaintiff is authorized to communicate directly with each Settling Defendant. Settling Defendants must permit representatives of any Plaintiff to interview any employee or other individual

affiliated with Settling Defendants who has agreed to such an interview. The individual interviewed may have counsel present.

C. Any Plaintiff may use all other lawful means, including posing, through its representatives as consumers, donors, suppliers, or other individuals or entities, to Settling Defendants or any individual or entity affiliated with Settling Defendants, without the necessity of identification or prior notice. Nothing in the Order limits the Commission's lawful use of compulsory process, pursuant to Sections 9 and 20 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 49, 57b-1, nor limits State Plaintiffs' lawful use of relevant state laws governing pre-suit investigation and discovery.

D. Upon written request from a representative of any Plaintiff, any consumer reporting agency must furnish a consumer report concerning any Individual Defendant, pursuant to Section 604(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. §1681b(a)(1).

## **XVI. STATE COURT ENFORCEMENT**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that, without limiting any other provisions of the Order, each State Plaintiff shall have the authority to enforce or seek sanctions for violations of the Order independently in a court of general jurisdiction in its state, if that State Plaintiff has reason to believe that Persons in its state have been or will be affected. No approval from any other Plaintiff is required.

Defendants consent to any such state court's jurisdiction for purposes of enforcing the terms of the Order.

**XVII. CORPORATE DISSOLUTION PURSUANT TO MICHIGAN LAW**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that, without limiting any other provision of the Order, each of the Corporate Defendants:

- A. Shall immediately cease all business activities other than those necessary to effectuate the requirements of this Section;
- B. Shall complete a wind up of all of its business activities and affairs and liquidate, specifically including filing all required state fundraising reports, and dispose of any and all of their assets, subject to the restrictions set forth in Section IX, above, regarding Donor information, within 180 days of the date of the Order; and
- C. Stipulate to dissolution through a judgment of dissolution entered by a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Michigan pursuant to MCL 450.1831(c), and agree not to contest any such judgment of dissolution, or any other action to effect a judgment of dissolution pursuant to MCL 450.1821(1)(c) by the State of Michigan, acting through its attorney general. Any action for dissolution shall be brought no earlier than 180 days after the date of entry of the Order.

**XVIII. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION**

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that this Court retains jurisdiction of this matter for purposes of construction, modification, and enforcement of the Order.

**STIPULATIONS FOLLOW**

**SO STIPULATED AND AGREED:**

**FOR DEFENDANTS DIRECTELE, INC., THE DALE CORPORATION,  
NIKOLE GILSTORF, AND ANTONIO LIA:**

Dec 28, 2020

*Helen Mac Murray*

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Attorneys for Defendants Directele, Inc., The  
Dale Corporation, Nikole Gilstorf, and  
Antonio Lia

\_\_\_\_\_, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nikole Gilstorf, President  
For Directele, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nikole Gilstorf, President  
For The Dale Corporation

\_\_\_\_\_, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nikole Gilstorf  
On behalf of herself, individually

\_\_\_\_\_, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Antonia Lia,  
On behalf of himself, individually

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SO STIPULATED AND AGREED:

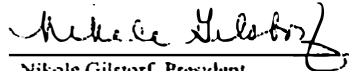
FOR DEFENDANTS DIRECTELE, INC., THE DALE CORPORATION,  
NIKOLE GILSTORF, AND ANTONIO LIA:

\_\_\_\_\_, 2020

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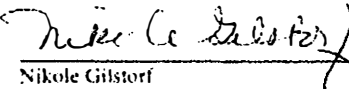
12.20, 2020

  
Nikole Gilstorf, President  
For Directele, Inc.

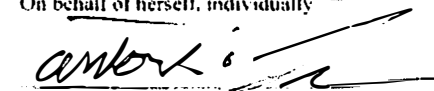
12.20, 2020

  
Nikole Gilstorf, President  
For The Dale Corporation

12.20, 2020

  
Nikole Gilstorf  
On behalf of herself, individually

12.20, 2020

  
Antonio Lia,  
On behalf of himself, individually

**FOR THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION:**

March 1, 2021

By: /s/ Tracy S. Thorleifson

Local Counsel for the  
Federal Trade Commission  
Pursuant to Local Rule 83.20(g):

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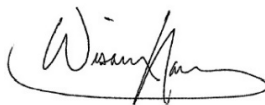
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**FOR THE STATE OF MICHIGAN**

February 26, 2021

By:



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**FOR JENA GRISWOLD, COLORADO  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

February 25, 2021

By: *s/ with the consent of Diane R. Hazel*

DIANE R. HAZEL\*

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**PHILIP J. WEISER, ATTORNEY GENERAL  
FOR THE STATE OF COLORADO**

Dated: February 25, 2021

By: s/ with consent of Diane R. Hazel

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**FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE**

March 3rd, 2021

By: /s/ with consent of Oliver J. Cleary

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**FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA AND THE  
GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE**

February 22, 2021

By: /s/ with the consent of Roger A. Chalmers  
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**FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS**



January 19, 2021

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**FOR THE STATE OF KANSAS**

February 11, 2021

By: /s/ with the consent of Kathleen Barceleau

Kathleen Barceleau

Assistant Attorney General

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**FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA**

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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**FOR THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

February 23, 2021


By: s/ with consent of Monisha A. Kumar  
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**FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

LETITIA JAMES, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF  
THE STATE OF NEW YORK

February 24, 2021

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**FOR THE STATE OF OREGON**

February 17  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2021

By: Brian Marshall  
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**FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS**

February 11, 2021

By: 

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Assistant Attorney General

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Texas Bar No. 24002175

**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
VIRGINIA, *EX REL.* MARK R. HERRING,  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

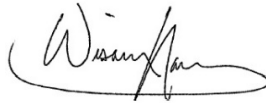
March 3rd, 2021

By: /s/ with consent of Mark S. Kubiak  
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Stephen J. Sovinsky  
Assistant Attorneys General  
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VA 73119

**FOR THE STATES OF ALABAMA,  
CALIFORNIA, CONNECTICUT, FLORIDA,  
INDIANA, IOWA, KENTUCKY, MAINE,  
MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS,  
MISSOURI, MONTANA, NEBRASKA,  
NEVADA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW  
MEXICO, NORTH CAROLINA, OHIO,  
OKLAHOMA, PENNSYLVANIA,  
TENNESSEE, UTAH, WASHINGTON, WEST  
VIRGINIA, WISCONSIN, AND WYOMING,  
THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER  
SERVICES, THE SECRETARIES OF STATE  
OF MARYLAND, NORTH CAROLINA, AND  
TENNESSEE, THE DIVISION OF  
CONSUMER PROTECTION OF THE UTAH  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

February 26, 2021

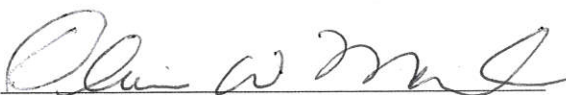
By:



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**FOR THE STATE OF ALABAMA**

February 10, 2021

By: 

Olivia W. Martin \*

Assistant Attorney General

Office of Attorney General

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AL ASB-9038-R780

\*Attorney not admitted in this District, co-signing pursuant to LR 83.20(i)(1)(D)(i).

**FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

February 10, 2021

By:   
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Charitable Trusts Section  
Office of the Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
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**FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

February 25, 2021

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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Kim.mcgee@ct.gov  
CT juris no. 440655

\*Attorney not admitted in this District, co-signing pursuant to LR 83.20(i)(1)(D)(i).

**FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA  
ASHLEY MOODY  
Attorney General**

February 11, 2021

By:



Ellen Annaliese Bullock \*  
Assistant Attorney General

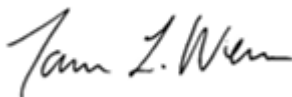


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**FOR THE STATE OF INDIANA**

February 17, 2021



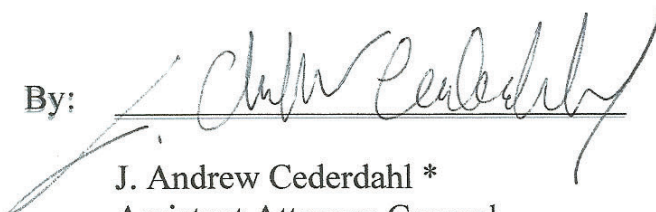
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**FOR THE STATE OF IOWA**

February 10, 2021

By:

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**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
KENTUCKY**

February 24, 2021

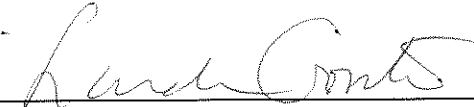
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February 18, 2021

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**FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

February 24, 2021

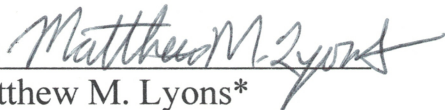
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**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH  
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February 10, 2021

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**FOR THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

February 24, 2021

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**FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA**

February 24, 2021

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**FOR THE STATE OF NEBRASKA**

February 23, 2021

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**FOR THE STATE OF NEVADA**

February 11, 2021

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**FOR THE STATE OF NEW  
HAMPSHIRE**

February 12, 2021

By:



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February 25, 2021

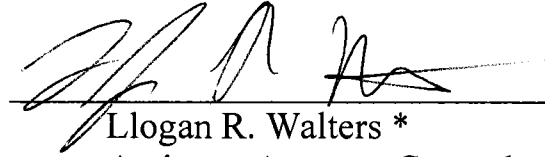
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**FOR THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

February 24, 2021

By:



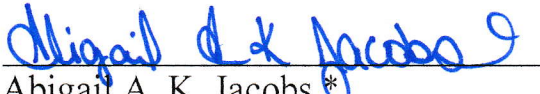
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**FOR THE STATE OF OHIO**

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**FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

February 22, 2021

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**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
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February 10, 2021

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**FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND SECRETARY  
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Feb. 25, 2021

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**FOR THE STATE OF UTAH**

FEB 24, 2021

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**FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

Feb. 11, 2021

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**FOR THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

February 12, 2021

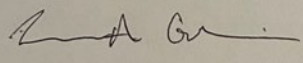
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**FOR THE STATE OF WISCONSIN  
JOSHUA L. KAUL  
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February 15, 2021

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**FOR THE STATE OF WYOMING**

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2/24, 2021

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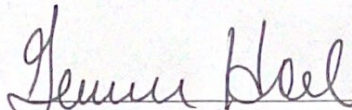
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**FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

February 11, 2021

By:



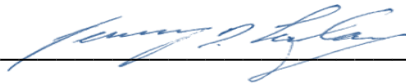
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**FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA  
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February 11, 2021

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**FOR THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER  
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**FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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*District of Columbia*

February 16, 2021

By:



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**ATTACHMENT A**

**TELEMARKETING SALES RULE**

Pt. 309, App. A

16 CFR Ch. I (1–1–19 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) *Cash-to-cash money transfer* means the electronic (as defined in section 106(2) of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (15 U.S.C. 7006(2))) transfer of the value of cash received from one person to another person in a different location that is sent by a money transfer provider and received in the form of cash. For purposes of this definition, *money transfer provider* means any person or financial institution that provides cash-to-cash money transfers for a person in the normal course of its business, whether or not the person holds an account with such person or financial institution. The term *cash-to-cash money transfer* includes a remittance transfer, as defined in section 919(g)(2) of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act ("EFTA"), 15 U.S.C. 1693a, that is a cash-to-cash transaction; however it does not include any transaction that is:

(1) An electronic fund transfer as defined in section 903 of the EFTA;

(2) Covered by Regulation E, 12 CFR 1005.20, pertaining to gift cards; or

(3) Subject to the Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*

(g) *Cash reload mechanism* is a device, authorization code, personal identification number, or other security measure that makes it possible for a person to convert cash into an electronic (as defined in section 106(2) of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (15 U.S.C. 7006(2))) form

that can be used to add funds to a general-use prepaid card, as defined in Regulation E, 12 CFR 1005.2, or an account with a payment intermediary. For purposes of this definition, a cash reload mechanism is not itself a general-use prepaid debit card or a swipe reload process or similar method in which funds are added directly onto a person's own general-use prepaid card or account with a payment intermediary.

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

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

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

(k) *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.

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

(m) *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.

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

(o) *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.

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

(q) *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

## § 310.2

## 16 CFR Ch. I (1–1–19 Edition)

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.

(r) *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.

(s) *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.

(t) *Material* means likely to affect a person's choice of, or conduct regarding, goods or services or a charitable contribution.

(u) *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.

(v) *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.

(w) *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.

(x) *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.

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

(z) *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.

(aa) *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.

(bb) *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.

(cc) *Remotely created payment order* means any payment instruction or order drawn on a person's account that is created by the payee or the payee's agent and deposited into or cleared through the check clearing system. The term includes, without limitation, a "remotely created check," as defined in Regulation CC, Availability of Funds and Collection of Checks, 12 CFR 229.2(ff), but does not include a payment order cleared through an Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) Network or subject to the Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*, and Regulation Z, 12 CFR part 1026.

(dd) *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.

(ee) *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.

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

(gg) *Telemarketing* means a plan, program, or campaign which is conducted



**Federal Trade Commission****§ 310.3**

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.

(hh) *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.

[75 FR 48516, Aug. 10, 2010, as amended at 80 FR 77557, Dec. 14, 2015]

**§ 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 pay<sup>659</sup> for goods or services offered, 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;<sup>660</sup>

(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;

<sup>659</sup> 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 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.

<sup>660</sup> 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.

**§ 310.3**

(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

**16 CFR Ch. I (1-1-19 Edition)**

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 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

**Federal Trade Commission****§ 310.3**

(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,<sup>661</sup> or a debit card subject to the protections of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act and Regulation E.<sup>662</sup> 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;<sup>663</sup>

(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) An accurate description, clearly and conspicuously stated, of the goods or services or charitable contribution for which payment authorization is sought;

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

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

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

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

(F) 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;

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

(H) 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.

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

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

<sup>663</sup> 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.

**§310.4**

(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

**16 CFR Ch. I (1–19 Edition)**

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.

[75 FR 48516, Aug. 10, 2010, as amended at 80 FR 77558, Dec. 14, 2015]

**§310.4 Abusive telemarketing acts or practices.**

(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 transaction, until seven (7) business days after such money or other item is delivered to that person. This provision shall not

**Federal Trade Commission****§ 310.4**

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 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



**§ 310.4****16 CFR Ch. I (1–1–19 Edition)**

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;

(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;

(9) Creating or causing to be created, directly or indirectly, a remotely created payment order as payment for goods or services offered or sold through telemarketing or as a charitable contribution solicited or sought through telemarketing; or

(10) Accepting from a customer or donor, directly or indirectly, a cash-to-cash money transfer or cash reload mechanism as payment for goods or services offered or sold through telemarketing or as a charitable contribution solicited or sought through telemarketing.

(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 paragraph (b)(1)(iii)(A) of this section, including, but not limited to, harassing any person who makes such a request; hanging up on that person; failing to honor the request; requiring the person to listen to a sales pitch before accepting the request; assessing a charge or fee for honoring the request; requiring a person to call a different number to submit the request; and requiring the person to identify the seller making the call or on whose behalf the call is made;

(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 or telemarketer:

(1) Can demonstrate that the seller has obtained the express agreement, in writing, of such person to place calls to that person. Such written agreement shall clearly evidence such 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 signature<sup>664</sup> of that person; or

<sup>664</sup> 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

**Federal Trade Commission****§ 310.4**

(2) Can demonstrate that the seller 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;<sup>665</sup> 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

valid signature under applicable federal law or state contract law.

<sup>665</sup> 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.

(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.

(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

**§310.4****16 CFR Ch. I (1–1–19 Edition)**

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 paragraph (b)(1)(ii) or (iii) of this section is the result of error and not of failure to obtain any information necessary to comply with a request pursuant to paragraph (b)(1)(iii)(A) of this section not to receive further calls by or on behalf of a seller or charitable organization.

(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 placed<sup>666</sup>; 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 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

<sup>666</sup> 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.



**Federal Trade Commission****§ 310.6**

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; 80 FR 77559, Dec. 14, 2015]

**§ 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;<sup>667</sup>

(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.

**§ 310.6 Exemptions.**

(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:

<sup>667</sup> 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 recordkeeping requirements under the Truth in Lending Act, and Regulation Z, shall constitute compliance with § 310.5(a)(3) of this Rule.

**§310.7****16 CFR Ch. I (1–1–19 Edition)**

(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:

(i) 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 offers for goods or services described in §310.3(a)(1)(vi) or §310.4(a)(2) through (4);

(ii) The requirements of §310.4(a)(9) or (10); or

(iii) 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), 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) for any requested charitable contribution; *provided*, however, that this exemption does not apply to:

(i) 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) through (4);

(ii) The requirements of §310.4(a)(9) or (10); or

(iii) Any instances of upselling included in such telephone calls; and

(7) Telephone calls between a telemarketer and any business to induce the purchase of goods or services or a charitable contribution by the business, except calls to induce the retail sale of nondurable office or cleaning supplies; *provided*, however, that §§310.4(b)(1)(iii)(B) and 310.5 shall not apply to sellers or telemarketers of nondurable office or cleaning supplies.

[75 FR 48516, Aug. 10, 2010, as amended at 80 FR 77559, Dec. 14, 2015]

**§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

## Federal Trade Commission

## § 310.8

the Office of the Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580, and 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 \$63 for each area code of data accessed, up to a maximum of \$17,406; *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. No person may participate in any arrangement to share the cost of accessing the National Do Not Call 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 paragraph (c) of this section, each person excepted under paragraph (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 paragraph (c) of this section must first pay \$63 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 paragraph (c) of this section must first pay \$32 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.

**§ 310.9**

16 CFR Ch. I (1–1–19 Edition)

(e) Access to the National Do Not Call Registry is limited to telemarketers, sellers, others engaged in or causing others to engage in telephone 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; 79 FR 51478, Aug. 29, 2014; 80 FR 77560, Dec. 14, 2016; 81 FR 59845, Aug. 31, 2016; 82 FR 39534, Aug. 21, 2017; 83 FR 46640, Sept. 14, 2018]

**§ 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.