

OCCC CASE NO. L24-00056

IN THE MATTER OF:	§	BEFORE THE
	§	
MASTER FILE NO.: 1400051165	§	OFFICE OF CONSUMER
LIFELINE DEBT RELIEF INC.	§	
d/b/a GUARDIAN DEBT RELIEF	§	CREDIT COMMISSIONER
65 BROADWAY, SUITE #1702	§	
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006	§	STATE OF TEXAS

**ORDER IMPOSING ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY**

The Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner (“OCCC”) issues this Order Imposing Administrative Penalty against Lifeline Debt Relief Inc. d/b/a Guardian Debt Relief (“Lifeline Debt Relief”).<sup>1</sup>

**Statement of Facts and Law**

Lifeline Debt Relief is a debt management services provider registered with the OCCC under Chapter 394 of the Texas Finance Code. Lifeline Debt Relief operates under master file number 1400051165 at one location, under registration number 210353. Lifeline Debt Relief’s compliance officer is Oleg Yavarovskiy, and its designated contact address is 65 Broadway, Suite #1702, New York, New York 10006.

A debt management services provider must file annual reports with the Consumer Credit Commissioner (“Commissioner”).<sup>2</sup> Additionally, a debt management services provider must annually file the following required documents with the Commissioner:

- (1) a blank copy of the provider’s written debt management services agreement;<sup>3</sup>
- (2) blank copies of credit counseling information provided to consumers;<sup>4</sup>
- (3) a surety bond or evidence that the provider maintains an insurance policy.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(a).

<sup>2</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 394.205(b); 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.202(b).

<sup>3</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 394.205(d); 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.202(c)(1).

<sup>4</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 394.205(d); 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.202(c)(2).

<sup>5</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 394.206; 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.202(c)(3).

A provider must comply with all instructions from the Commissioner relating to submitting the report.<sup>6</sup> The annual report and required documents are due by January 31 of each year.<sup>7</sup>

On May 23, 2023, the OCCC issued an Order to File Timely and Accurate Annual Reports and Required Documents (the “Order”) against Lifeline Debt Relief for violating Chapter 394 of the Texas Finance Code by failing to timely file its 2022 annual report. The Order required Lifeline Debt Relief to timely file all future annual reports.

Lifeline Debt Relief did not file its 2023 annual report by January 31, 2024, and did not provide the required documents described above by January 31, 2024.

The Commissioner may issue an injunction ordering a debt management services provider to file one or more complete, timely, and accurate annual reports and required documents if the Commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that the provider is violating Chapter 394 of the Texas Finance Code.<sup>8</sup> The Commissioner may impose an administrative penalty on a provider that violates an injunction.<sup>9</sup>

By failing to timely file its 2023 annual report and required documents, Lifeline Debt Relief has violated Chapter 394 of the Texas Finance Code and the OCCC’s Order to File Timely and Accurate Annual Reports and Required Documents.

## **Order**

IT IS ORDERED that Lifeline Debt Relief Inc. d/b/a Guardian Debt Relief:

1. pay an administrative penalty in the amount of **\$500.00** (calculated as \$500.00 each for Lifeline Debt Relief’s one registered location) within 30 days of the date of this Order; and
2. file its 2023 annual report and all required documents within 30 days of the date of this Order, if it has not already done so.

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<sup>6</sup> 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.202(a).

<sup>7</sup> 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.201(c).

<sup>8</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(a).

<sup>9</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(c).

Annual reports for debt management services providers must be submitted through the OCCC's Application Licensing Examination Compliance System (ALECS): [alecs.occ.texas.gov](http://alecs.occ.texas.gov). Instructions are available by clicking the "File Annual Report" button on the OCCC's home page, [occ.texas.gov](http://occ.texas.gov).

### **Right to Request Hearing**

You have the right to request a hearing regarding this Order.<sup>10</sup> To request a hearing, you must send a written hearing request to the OCCC no later than 30 days after the date of this Order. You must send your request to Vivek Vedanarayanan Assistant General Counsel, by mail to 2601 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78705, or by email to [vivek.vedanarayanan@occ.texas.gov](mailto:vivek.vedanarayanan@occ.texas.gov).

If you request a hearing, a hearing on this matter will be set and conducted in accordance with Chapter 2001 of the Texas Government Code.<sup>11</sup> If you fail to request a hearing by the deadline, this Order will be considered final and enforceable.<sup>12</sup>

All communications with the OCCC concerning this matter must be through Vivek Vedanarayanan, Assistant General Counsel, who may be contacted by mail at 2601 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78705, by telephone at 512-936-7623, or by email at [vivek.vedanarayanan@occ.texas.gov](mailto:vivek.vedanarayanan@occ.texas.gov).

Signed this 24th day of May, 2024.

/s/ Leslie Pettijohn  
Leslie L. Pettijohn  
Consumer Credit Commissioner  
State of Texas

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<sup>10</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(b).

<sup>11</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(b).

<sup>12</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(c).

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on May 24, 2024, a true and correct copy of this Order Imposing Administrative Penalty has been sent to Lifeline Debt Relief Inc. d/b/a Guardian Debt Relief by regular mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, at:

CMRRR # 9214 8901 9403 8300 0061 1277 83  
Lifeline Debt Relief Inc.  
Attn: Oleg Yavarovskiy, Compliance Officer  
65 Broadway, Suite #1702  
New York, NY 10006

CMRRR # 9214 8901 9403 8300 0061 1277 90  
Lifeline Debt Relief Inc.  
Attn: Legaline Corporate Services, Inc., Registered Agent  
1601 Welch Street, Suite B  
Houston, TX 77006

/s/ Vivek V. Vedanarayanan  
Vivek V. Vedanarayanan  
Assistant General Counsel  
Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner  
State Bar No. 24127068  
2601 North Lamar Blvd.  
Austin, Texas 78705  
512-936-7623 (phone)  
vivek.vedanarayanan@occc.texas.gov