#### OCCC CASE NO. L25-051

IN THE MATTER OF:	§	BEFORE THE
	§	
MASTER FILE NO.: 2300073838	§	OFFICE OF CONSUMER
DEBT FREEDOM LLC	§	
D/B/A DEBT FREEDOM LLC	§	CREDIT COMMISSIONER
5379 LYONS RD., 1696	§	
POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA 33477	§	STATE OF TEXAS

# ORDER TO FILE TIMELY AND ACCURATE ANNUAL REPORTS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner ("OCCC") issues this Order to File Timely and Accurate Annual Reports and Required Documents against Debt Freedom LLC d/b/a Debt Freedom LLC ("Debt Freedom").<sup>1</sup>

## Statement of Facts and Law

Debt Freedom is a debt management services provider registered with the OCCC under Chapter 394 of the Texas Finance Code. Debt Freedom operates under master file number 2300073838 at one location, under registration number 226788. Debt Freedom's compliance officer is Jill Newman, and its designated contact address is 5379 Lyons Rd., 1696, Pompano Beach, Florida 33477.

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>

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

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

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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;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>

Debt Freedom did not file its 2024 annual report with the Commissioner on or before January 31, 2025. In addition, Debt Freedom did not file the required documents described above on or before January 31, 2025.

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

The Commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that Debt Freedom is violating Chapter 394 of the Texas Finance Code, and therefore issues this Order, because Debt Freedom failed to timely file its 2024 annual report and required documents.

<sup>67</sup> Tex. Admin. Code § 88.202(a).

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

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

### Order

IT IS ORDERED that Debt Freedom LLC d/b/a Debt Freedom LLC:

- 1. comply with, and cease and desist from violating, the reporting and filing requirements set forth in Sections 394.205 and 394.206 of the Texas Finance Code and Title 7, Sections 88.201 and 88.202 of the Texas Administrative Code;
- 2. file its 2024 annual report and all required documents within 30 days of service of this Order, if it has not already done so; and
- 3. timely file complete and accurate future annual reports and required documents.

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

#### Violation of Order

If you violate this Order, the OCCC may impose an administrative penalty of up to \$1,000 for each day. Multiple violations may also result in the suspension or revocation of your registration. <sup>10</sup>

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 394.204(k).

# **Right to Request Hearing**

You have the right to request a hearing regarding this Order. <sup>11</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@occc.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>12</sup> If you fail to request a hearing by the deadline, this Order will be considered final and enforceable. <sup>13</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@occc.texas.gov.

Signed this 17th day of April, 2025.

/s/ Leslie Pettijohn

Leslie L. Pettijohn Consumer Credit Commissioner State of Texas

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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(c).

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on April 17, 2025, a true and correct copy of this Order to File Timely and Accurate Annual Reports and Required Documents has been sent to Debt Freedom LLC d/b/a Debt Freedom LLC by the following:

Debt Freedom LLC ⊠ email Attn: Jill Newman, Compliance Officer 5379 Lyons Rd., 1696 ☐ eFileTexas.gov electronic service Pompano Beach, FL 33477 jnewman@j3corporate.com ⊠ regular mail ☑ certified mail, return receipt requested # 9214 8901 9403 8300 0004 2943 67 Debt Freedom LLC ⊠ email Attn: Corporation Service Company d/b/a Lawyers Incorporate, Registered ☐ eFileTexas.gov electronic service Agent ⊠ regular mail 211 E. 7th Street, Suite 620 Austin, TX 78701 ☑ certified mail, return receipt requested records1@cscglobal.com # 9214 8901 9403 8300 0004 2943 74

# /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