

OCCC CASE NO. L20-00124

IN THE MATTER OF:	§	BEFORE THE
	§	
MASTER FILE NO.: 1600055406	§	OFFICE OF CONSUMER
SOLID GROUND FINANCIAL	§	
6600 TAFT STREET 307	§	CREDIT COMMISSIONER
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA 33024	§	
	§	STATE OF TEXAS

ORDER IMPOSING ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY

The Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner (“OCCC”) issues this Order Imposing Administrative Penalty against Solid Ground Financial (“Solid Ground Financial”).¹

Statement of Facts and Law

Solid Ground Financial is a debt management services provider registered with the OCCC under Chapter 394 of the Texas Finance Code. Solid Ground Financial operates under master file number 1600055406 at one location, under registration number 206620. Solid Ground Financial’s compliance officer is Scott Haick, and its designated contact address is 6600 Taft Street 307, Hollywood, Florida 33024.

A debt management services provider must file annual reports with the Consumer Credit Commissioner (“Commissioner”).² A provider must also annually file the following required documents with the Commissioner:

- (a) a blank copy of the provider’s written debt management services agreement;³
- (b) blank copies of credit counseling information provided to consumers;⁴
- (c) a surety bond or evidence that the provider maintains an insurance policy;⁵
- (d) a list of all owners and principal parties, including any change in ownership that occurred during the preceding calendar year;⁶ and

¹ Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(a), (c).

² Tex. Fin. Code § 394.205(b); 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.202(b).

³ Tex. Fin. Code § 394.205(d); 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.202(b)(1).

⁴ Tex. Fin. Code § 394.205(d); 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.202(b)(1).

⁵ Tex. Fin. Code § 394.206; 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.202(c).

⁶ 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.202(b)(2).

- (e) information regarding the provider's credit counselors, including the number of credit counselors employed at the time the annual report is prepared, and the accreditation organization or program that certifies its counselors.⁷

A provider must comply with all instructions from the Commissioner relating to submitting the report.⁸ The annual report and required documents are due by January 31 of each year.⁹ For 2019 annual reports and required documents, the OCCC extended the filing deadline to February 12, 2020.

On April 18, 2018, the OCCC issued an Injunctive Order to File Timely and Accurate Annual Reports and Other Documents against Solid Ground Financial for failing to file its 2017 annual report. Solid Ground Financial did not request a hearing on the Order. The Order required Solid Ground Financial to timely file complete and accurate future reports.

Solid Ground Financial did not file its 2019 annual report with the Commissioner on or before February 12, 2020. Further, Solid Ground Financial did not file the required documents described above in items (a) through (e) on or before February 12, 2020.

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 provider is violating Chapter 394 of the Texas Finance Code.¹⁰ The Commissioner may impose an administrative penalty on a provider that violates an injunction.¹¹

⁷ 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.202(b)(3).

⁸ 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.202(a); https://occc.texas.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/industry-reporting/debtmanagement_screenshotguide.pdf

⁹ 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 88.201.

¹⁰ Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(a).

¹¹ Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(c).

Order

IT IS ORDERED that Solid Ground Financial:

1. pay an administrative penalty in the amount of **\$500.00**, calculated as \$500.00 each for Solid Ground Financial's one registered location, within 30 days of the service of this Order; and
2. file its 2019 annual report and all required documents within 30 days of service of this Order, if it has not already done so.

Annual reports for debt management services providers must be submitted through the OCCC's Application Licensing Examination Compliance System (ALECS): alecs.occc.texas.gov. Instructions are available on the OCCC's "Debt Management & Settlement Providers" web page located at:

<https://occc.texas.gov/industry/debt-management-settlement-providers>

Right to Request Hearing

You have the right to request a hearing regarding this Order.¹² Your request must be made in writing and sent to the OCCC not later than 30 days after you receive this Order. You must send your request to:

Matthew Nance
Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner
2601 N. Lamar Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78705

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.¹³ If you fail to request a hearing by this deadline, this Order is considered final and enforceable.¹⁴

All communications with the OCCC concerning this matter must be through Matthew Nance, Deputy General Counsel, who may be contacted by mail at 2601 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78705, by telephone at (512) 936-7660, or by email to matthew.nance@occc.texas.gov.

¹² Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(b).

¹³ Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(b).

¹⁴ Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(c).

Signed this 5th day of March, 2020.

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

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on March 5, 2020, a true and correct copy of this Order Imposing Administrative Penalty has been sent to Solid Ground Financial by regular mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, at:

CMRRR #9214 8901 9403 8300 0007 1685 66

Solid Ground Financial

Attn: Scott Haick, Compliance Officer

6600 Taft Street 307

Hollywood, FL 33024

CMRRR #9214 8901 9403 8300 0007 1686 10

Solid Ground Financial

Attn: Solid Ground Financial, Registered Agent

3212 N. Galloway

Mesquite, TX 75150

/s/Matthew Nance

Matthew J. Nance

Deputy General Counsel

Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner

State Bar No. 24074794

2601 North Lamar Blvd.

Austin, Texas 78705

(512) 936-7660

(512) 936-7610 (fax)

matthew.nance@occc.texas.gov