

. 3300 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 250 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 (702) 486-4120

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# STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION

1179 Fairview Drive, Ste 201 Carson City, Nevada 89701 (775) 687-5522

n	Re:			

Thunderbird Collection Specialists Inc. a/k/a TCS Inc.,

Respondent.

ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST UNLICENSED ACTIVITIES UNDER NRS 649 AND NAC 649; AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

# ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST VIOLATIONS OF NRS 649 AND NAC 649 ACTIVITIES

The State of Nevada Department of Business and Industry, Financial Institutions Division (hereinafter, "Division") hereby orders Thunderbird Collection Specialists Inc. a/k/a TCS Inc. (hereinafter, "Respondent") to cease and desist from any and all activities that are in violation of Chapter 649 of the Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") and Nevada Administrative Code ("NAC").

# **JURISDICTION**

- 1. The business of collecting claims for others or of soliciting the right to collect or receive payment for another of any claim in the State of Nevada is governed by NRS Chapter 649 and NAC Chapter 649.
- 2. The Division has primary jurisdiction for the licensing and regulation of persons operating and/or engaging in collection services. NRS 649.020; NRS 649.045; NRS 649.051 et seq.; NRS 649.075 et seq.
- 3. Pursuant to the authority vested by NRS Chapter 649, the Division hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

4. Respondent is not currently nor has ever been registered with the State of Nevada Secretary of State as a foreign or domestic corporation.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 5. Respondent's business address is 3200 N. Hayden Road, Suite 110, Scottsdale, Arizona 85251.
- 6. On or about June 20, 2017, a complaint from a Nevada resident was received with evidence of unlicensed activity being conducted by Respondent.
- 7. On or about June 20, 2017, the Division notified Respondent of the alleged complaint and requested validation of the alleged debt, collection logs, and proof of any other action taken against the complainant's account.
- 8. On or about June 26, 2017, Respondent filed a response with the Division and provided a validation of the debt and collection logs regarding the account.
- 9. Through the course of its investigation, the Division discovered that Respondent engaged in and/or is engaging in the business of a collection agency in the State of Nevada without a license. Specifically, the Division discovered that Respondent, without first obtaining a license, contacted and communicated with a Nevada resident regarding the payment of a debt on behalf of a third party, provided the same Nevada resident with a demand letter for the collection of a debt on behalf of a third party, validated the subject debt, and collected payment of said debt.
- 10. On or about June 30, 2017, the Division notified the Respondent in writing that a license was required to conduct the business of a collection agency in the State of Nevada. The Division allowed the Respondent thirty (30) days to comply. Respondent failed to comply; it did not submit an application for the collection agency nor the designated qualified manager.
- 11. If any Finding of Fact is more properly characterized as a Conclusion of Law, it shall be considered as such.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

12. NRS 649.075(1) reads as follows:

Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person shall not conduct within this State a collection agency or engage within this State in the business of collecting claims for others, or of soliciting the right to collect or receive payment for another of any claim, or advertise, or solicit, either in print, by letter, in person or otherwise, the right to collect or receive payment for another of any claim, or seek to make collection or obtain payment of any claim on behalf of another without having first applied for and obtained a license from the Commissioner.

13. NRS 649.020 defines a "collection agency" as:

all persons engaging, directly or indirectly, and as a primary or a secondary object, business or pursuit, in the collection of or in soliciting or obtaining in any manner the payment of a claim owed or due or asserted to be owed or due to another.

14. NRS 649.390 allows the Commissioner to take disciplinary action against a person¹ for conducting unlicensed activity in violation of NRS Chapter 649:

Investigation of verified complaint concerning unlicensed person; order to cease and desist; administrative fines; suit to recover fine; cumulative penalties.

1. The Commissioner shall conduct an investigation if he receives a verified complaint from any person that sets forth reason to believe that an unlicensed person is engaging in an activity for which a license is required pursuant to this chapter.

2. If the Commissioner determines that an unlicensed person is engaging in an activity for which a license is required pursuant to this chapter, the Commissioner shall issue and serve on the person an order to cease and desist from engaging in the activity until such time as the person obtains a license from the Commissioner.

3. If a person upon whom an order to cease and desist is served does not comply with the order within 30 days after service, the Commissioner shall, after notice and opportunity for a hearing:

(a) Impose upon the person an administrative fine of \$10,000; or

- (b) Enter into a written consent agreement with the person pursuant to which the person agrees to cease and desist from all unlicensed activity in this State relating to the collection of debts, and impose upon the person an administrative fine of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$10,000.
- -- The imposition of an administrative fine pursuant to this subsection is a final decision for the purposes of judicial review.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Pursuant to NRS 0.039, person is defined as "a natural person, any form of business or social organization and any other nongovernmental legal entity including, but not limited to, a corporation, partnership, association, trust or unincorporated organization."

4. The Commissioner shall bring suit in the name and on behalf of the State of Nevada against a person upon whom an administrative fine is imposed pursuant to subsection 3 to recover the amount of the administrative fine:

(a) If no petition for judicial review is filed pursuant to NRS 233B.130 and the fine remains unpaid for more than 90 days after

notice of the imposition of the fine; or

(b) If a petition for judicial review is filed pursuant to NRS 233B.130 and the fine remains unpaid for more than 90 days after exhaustion of any right of appeal in the courts of this State resulting in a final determination that upholds the imposition of the fine.

5. A person's liability for an administrative fine is in addition to any other penalty provided in this chapter.

15. Pursuant to NRS 649.440, the Commissioner may also impose administrative fines of not more than \$10,000.00 for any violation of this chapter:

In addition to any other remedy or penalty, the Commissioner may impose an administrative fine of not more than \$10,000 upon a person who:

1. Without a license or certificate, conducts any business or activity for which a license or certificate is required pursuant to the provisions of this chapter; or

2. Violates any provision of this chapter or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

16. Respondent has violated NRS 649.075 by engaging in the business of a collection agency in the State of Nevada without having first obtained proper licensure from the Division.

- 17. Pursuant to NRS 649.390, the Division hereby orders Respondent to cease and desist all activity covered under NRS Chapter 649.
- 18. Failure to comply with this Order and failure to submit proof to the Division that a violation(s) has not been committed within (30) days from the date of this Order may subject Respondent to an administrative fine of \$10,000 pursuant to NRS 649.390(3)(a) and/or NRS 649.440, any additional penalties under NRS Chapter 649, NAC Chapter 649, and any other applicable statute or regulation.

### <u>ORDER</u>

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent shall **CEASE AND DESIST** from operating and/or engaging in the business of a collection agency within the State of Nevada until such time Respondent becomes licensed by the Division pursuant to NRS Chapter 649. Respondent shall also comply with any additional disciplinary measures the ALJ may deem necessary, should the matter proceed to a hearing.

DATED this  $\partial \omega^{\prime}$ 

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION

By: (

day of December 2017.

Mary Young

Acting Deputy Commissioner

#### **APPEAL RIGHTS**

RESPONDENT HAS THE RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING IN THIS MATTER. If you wish to request a hearing, you must file a request within thirty (30) days after this Order to Cease and Desist was served on the Respondent.

Your request for a hearing must be delivered to:

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION
3300 W. Sahara Ave., Suite 250
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Other important rights you have are listed in Nevada Revised Statutes Chapters 649 and 233B and the Nevada Administrative Code Chapter 649.

DATED this 2219 day of December 2017.

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION

By:

Mary Young
Acting Deputy Commissioner

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I am an employee of the State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry, Financial Institutions Division, and that on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of December 2017, I deposited in the U.S. mail, postage prepaid, via First Class Mail and Certified Return Receipt Requested, a true and correct copy of the foregoing ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST UNLICENSED ACTIVITIES AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL, addressed as follows:

Thunderbird Collection Specialists Inc. a/k/a TCS Inc.

Attention: Steve Kaminskas

3200 N. Hayden Road, Suite 110

Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

Certified Mail:

7012 1010 0000 1164 7261

An Employee of the State of Nevada
Department of Business and Industry
Financial Institutions Division