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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

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Commissioners:

Robert Pitofsky, Chairman Mary L. Azcuenaga Janet D. Steiger Roscoe B. Starek, III Christine A. Varney

In the Matter of

LYLE R. LARSON, individually and doing business as MOMENTUM DOCKET NO. C-3672 DECISION AND ORDER principal office or place of business at 3033 127th Place SE, Suite I-21, Bellevue, Washington 98005.

2. The acts and practices of the respondent alleged in this complaint have been in or affecting commerce, as "commerce" is defined in the Federal Trade Commission Act.

3. The Federal Trade Commission has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this proceeding and of the respondent, and the proceeding is in the public interest.

ORDER

Definitions

1. "Credit Report" means any written, oral, or other communication of information by a consumer reporting agency bearing on a person's credit worthiness, credit standing, credit capacity, character, general reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living that is used or expected to be used or collected in whole or in part for the purpose of serving as a factor in establishing the consumer's eligibility for credit.

2. "Credit Repair Product" means any product or service to improve a person's credit report by removing adverse information appearing therein, changing the rating of such information from negative to positive, or otherwise enhancing the person's credit report.

I.

IT IS ORDERED that respondent Lyle R. Larson, his agents, representatives, and employees, directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, in connection with the advertising, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of any credit repair product, in or affecting commerce, as "commerce" is defined in the Federal Trade Commission Act, do forthwith cease and desist from misrepresenting, either directly or indirectly, in writing, via a computer communications network, or by any other means:

- A. Any right or remedy available under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 <u>et seq.</u>, including, but not limited to, the ability to remove adverse information in any credit report; and
- B. The legality of any credit repair product.

II.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent Lyle R. Larson, his agents, representatives, and employees, directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, in connection with the advertising, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of any credit

repair product involving the creation of a new credit file or tax identification number, in or affecting commerce, as "commerce" is defined in the Federal Trade Commission Act, do forthwith cease and desist from failing to disclose in any advertisement or promotional material, including any advertisement or promotion via a computer communications network, that:

- A. Making misrepresentations to the Internal Revenue Service may be a federal crime;
- B. Misrepresenting one's social security number for any purpose may be a federal crime;
- C. Making misrepresentations for a loan application may be a federal crime; and
- D. Making misrepresentations to a financial institution may be a federal crime.

III.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that for five (5) years after the last date of dissemination of any representation covered by this Order, respondent, or his successors and assigns, shall maintain and upon request make available to the Federal Trade Commission for inspection and copying:

- A. All materials that were relied upon in disseminating such representation; and
- B. All tests, reports, studies, surveys, demonstrations, or other evidence in his possession or control that contradict, qualify, or call into question such representation, or the basis relied upon for such representation, including complaints from consumers.

IV.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent shall:

- A. Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of this Order deliver a copy of this Order to each of his officers, agents, representatives, and employees who are engaged in the preparation or placement of advertisements, promotional materials or other such sales materials covered by this Order.
- B. For a period of ten (10) years from the effective date of this Order deliver a copy of this Order to each of his future officers, agents, representatives, and employees who are engaged in the preparation or placement of advertisements, promotional materials or other such sales materials

covered by this Order, within three (3) days after the person assumes such position.

appealed or upheld on appeal, then the Order will terminate according to this paragraph as though the complaint was never filed, except that the Order will not terminate between the date such complaint is filed and the later of the deadline for appealing such dismissal or ruling and the date such dismissal or ruling is upheld on appeal.

By the Commission.

Donald S. Clark Secretary

SEAL

ISSUED: June 12, 1996