

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

**In the Matter of**

3. Proposed Respondents waive:
  - a) Any further procedural steps;
  - b) The requirement that the Commission's Decision contain a statement of findings of fact and conclusions of law; and
  - c) All rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest the validity of the Decision and Order issued pursuant to this Consent Agreement.

4. This Consent Agreement will not become part of the public record of the proceeding unless and until it is accepted by the Commission. If the Commission accepts this Consent Agreement, it, together with the draft Complaint, will be placed on the public record for 30 days and information about them publicly released. Acceptance does not constitute final approval, but it serves as the basis for further actions leading to final disposition of the matter. Thereafter, the Commission may either withdraw its acceptance of this Consent Agreement and so notify each Proposed Respondent, in which event the Commission will take such action as it may consider appropriate, or issue and serve its Complaint (in such form as the circumstances may require)

**EPICHOUSE, LLC**

**FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Le

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Keith Fentonmiller



## Findings

1. The Respondents are:
  - a. Respondent Epichouse, LLC (“Epichouse”), also doing business as First Class Herbalist CBD, Cobalt Serum, Cobalt Enhance, and Cobalt Cream, a Utah corporation with its principal office or place of business at 3370 Brock St., West Valley City, Utah 84119-2902.
  - b. Respondent John Le, the sole owner and officer of Epichouse. Individually or in concert with others, he controlled or had the authority to control, or participated in the acts and practices alleged in this complaint. He resides in Midvale, Utah.
2. The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding and over the Respondents, and the proceeding is in the public interest.

## ORDER

### DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Order, the following definitions apply:

- A. “**CBD Product**” means any Dietary Supplement, Food, or Drug containing cannabidiol.
- B. “**Covered Product(s)**” means any Dietary Supplement, Food, or Drug, including but not limited to CBD Products sold or marketed by Respondents.
- C. “**Dietary Supplement**” means (1) any product labeled as a dietary supplement or otherwise represented as a dietary supplement; or (2) any pill, tablet, capsule, powder, softgel, gelcap, liquid, or other similar form containing one or more ingredients that are a vitamin, mineral, herb or other botanical, amino acid, probiotic, or other dietary substance for use by humans to supplement the diet by increasing the total dietary

- E. **“Essentially Equivalent Product”** means a product that contains the identical ingredients, except for inactive ingredients (e.g., binders, colors, fillers, excipients) in

- D. replaces the need for prescription painkillers like oxycontin; or
- E. is safe for all consumers;

unless the representation is non-misleading, and, at the time of making such representation, Respondents, Respondents' officers, agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them, possess and rely upon competent and reliable scientific evidence substantiating that the representation is true. For purposes of this Section, competent and reliable scientific evidence must consist of human clinical testing of the Covered Product or of an Essentially Equivalent Product, that is sufficient in quality and quantity based on standards generally accepted by experts in the relevant disease, condition, or function to which the representation relates, when considered in light of the entire body of relevant and reliable scientific evidence, to substantiate that the representation is true. Such testing must be: (1) randomized, double-blind, and placebo-controlled; and (2) conducted by researchers qualified by training and experience to conduct such testing. In addition, all underlying or supporting data and documents generally accepted by experts in the field as relevant to an assessment of such testing as described in the Section entitled Preservation of Records Relating to Competent and Reliable Human Clinical Tests or Studies must be available for inspection and production to the Commission. Persons covered by this Section have the burden of proving that a product satisfies the definition of Essentially Equivalent Product.

## **II. PROHIBITED REPRESENTATIONS: OTHER HEALTH-RELATED CLAIMS**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondents, Respondents' officers, agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with the manufacturing, labeling, advertising, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of any Covered Product must not make, or assist others in making, expressly or by implication, any representation, other than representations covered under the Provision of this Order entitled Prohibited Representations: Health-Related Claims Requiring Human Clinical Testing For Substantiation, about the health benefits, performance, efficacy, safety, or side effects of any Covered Product, unless the representation is non-misleading, and, at the time of making such representation, they possess and rely upon competent and reliable scientific evidence that is sufficient in quality and quantity based on standards generally accepted by experts in the relevant disease, condition, or function to which the representation relates, when considered in light of the entire body of relevant and reliable scientific evidence, to substantiate that the representation is true.

For purposes of this Provision, "competent and reliable scientific evidence" means tests, analyses, research, or studies (1) that have been conducted and evaluated in an objective manner by experts in the relevant disease, condition, or function to which the representation relates; (2) that are generally accepted by such experts to yield accurate and reliable results; and (3) that are randomized, double-blind, and placebo-controlled human clinical testing of the Covered Product, or of an Essentially Equivalent Product, when such experts would generally require such human clinical testing to substantiate that the representation is true. In addition, when such tests or studies are human clinical tests or studies, all underlying or supporting data and documents generally accepted by experts in the field as relevant to an assessment of such testing as set forth in the Section entitled Preservation of Records Relating to Competent and Reliable Human

Clinical Tests or Studies must be available for inspection and production to the Commission. Persons covered by this Provision have the burden of proving that a product satisfies the definition of Essentially Equivalent Product.

### **III. PRESERVATION OF RECORDS RELATING TO COMPETENT AND RELIABLE**



security, and integrity of any personal information collected from or about participants. These procedures must be documented in writing and must contain administrative, technical, and physical safeguards appropriate to Corporate Respondents' size and complexity, the nature and scope of Respondents' activities, and the sensitivity of the personal information collected from or about the participants.

#### **IV. PROHIBITED REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING TESTS, STUDIES, OR OTHER RESEARCH**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondents, Respondents' officers, agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with the manufacturing, labeling, advertising, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of any product must not misrepresent, in any manner, expressly or by implication:

- A. that any Covered Product is clinically proven to:
  - 1. improve alertness, focus, or memory recall;
  - 2. treat, alleviate, or cure age-related cognitive decline; anxiety; bipolar disorder; cancer; pain, including arthritis pain; depression; diabetes; heart disease; high blood pressure; inflammation; insomnia; and migraines; or
  - 3. prevent age-related cognitive decline; anxiety; pain, including arthritis pain; cancer; diabetes; heart disease; hypertension; inflammation; insomnia; or migraines;
- B. that the performance or benefits of a Covered Product are scientifically or clinically proven or otherwise established; or
- C. the existence, contents, validity, results, conclusions, or interpretations of any test, study, or other research.

#### **V. FDA-APPROVED CLAIMS**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that nothing in this Order prohibits Respondents, Respondents' officers, agents, employees, and attorneys, or all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them from:

- A. for any Drug, making a representation that is approved in labeling for such Drug under any tentative final or final monograph promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration, or under any new drug application approved by the Food and Drug Administration; and
- B. for any product, making a representation that is specifically authorized for use in labeling for such product by regulations promulgated by the Food and Drug

Administration pursuant to the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990 or permitted under Sections 303-304 of the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997.

## **VI. MONETARY RELIEF**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

- A. Respondents must pay to the Commission \$30,000.00, which Respondents stipulate their undersigned counsel holds in escrow for no purpose other than payment to the Commission.
- B. Such payment must be made within 8 days of the effective date of this Order by electronic fund transfer in accordance with instructions provided by a representative of the Commission.

## **VII. ADDITIONAL MONETARY PROVISIONS**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

- A. Respondents relinquish dominion and all legal and equitable right, title, and interest in all assets transferred pursuant to this Order and may not seek the return of any assets.
- B. The facts alleged in the Complaint will be taken as true, without further proof, in any subsequent civil litigation by or on behalf of the Commission to enforce its rights to any payment pursuant to this Order, such as a nondischargeability complaint in any bankruptcy case.
- C. The facts alleged in the Complaint establish all elements necessary to sustain an action by or on behalf of the Commission pursuant to Section 523(a)(2)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(2)(A), and this Order will have collateral estoppel effect for such purposes.
- D. All money paid to the Commission pursuant to this Order may be deposited into a fund administered by the Commission or its designee to be used for equitable relief, including consumer redress and any attendant expenses for the administration of any redress fund. If a representative of the Commission decides that direct redress to consumers is wholly or partially impracticable or money remains after redress is completed, the Commission may apply any remaining money for such other equitable relief (including consumer information remedies) as it determines to be reasonably related to Respondents' practices alleged in the Complaint. Any money not used for such equitable relief is to be deposited to the U.S. Treasury as disgorgement. Respondents have no right to challenge any actions pursuant to this Provision.

**VIII. NOTICES TO CUSTOMERS**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that

## IX. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF THE ORDER

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondents obtain acknowledgments of receipt of this Order:

- A. Each Respondent, within 10 days after the effective date of this Order, must submit to the Commission an acknowledgment of receipt of this Order sworn under penalty of perjury.
- B. For 10 years after the issuance date of this Order, the Individual Respondent for any business that such Respondent, individually or collectively with any other Respondent, is the majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, and each Corporate Respondent, must deliver a copy of this Order to: (1) all principals, officers, directors, and LLC managers and members; (2) all employees having managerial responsibilities for labeling, manufacturing, advertising, marketing, promotion, distribution, offering for sale, or sale of any Covered Product and all agents and representatives who participate in labeling, manufacturing, advertising, marketing, promotion, distribution, offering for sale, or sale of any Covered Product; and (3) any business entity resulting from any change in structure as set forth in the Provision titled Compliance Reports and Notices. Delivery must occur within 10 days after the effective date of this Order for current personnel. For all others, delivery must occur before they assume their responsibilities.
- C. From the individual or entity to which a Respondent delivered a copy of this Order, that Respondent must obtain, within 30 days, a signed and dated acknowledgment of receipt of this Order.





H. Within ten years from the date created or received, all records, whether prepared by or on behalf of Respondents, that tend to show any lack of compliance by Respondents with this Order.

## XII. COMPLIANCE MONITORING

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, for the purpose of monitoring Respondents' assets that are suspended and any failure to transfer any assets as required by this

A. Within 10 days of receipt of a written request from a representative of the Commission, each Respondent must: submit additional compliance reports or other requested information, which must be sworn under penalty of perjury, and produce records for inspection and copying.

B. For matters concerning this Order, representatives of the Commission are authorized to communicate directly with each Respondent. Respondents must permit representatives of the Commission to interview anyone affiliated with any Respondent who has agreed to such an interview. The interviewee may have counsel present.

C. The Commission may use all other lawful means, including posing through its representatives as consumers, suppliers, or other individuals or entities, to investigate or for any individual or entity affiliated with Respondents, without the need for identification or prior notice. Nothing in this Order limits the Commission's lawful use of compulsory process, pursuant to Sections 9 and 20 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 49, 57b-1.

D. Upon written request from a representative of the Commission, any consumer reporting agency must furnish consumer reports concerning Individual Respondents pursuant to Section 604(2) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(a)(2).

## XIII. ORDER EFFECTIVE DATES

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Order is final and effective upon the date of its publication on the Commission's website (ftc.gov) as a final order. This Order will terminate 20 years from the date of its issuance (w (f)2 ( (.ponde) (l)-24 ( C)-3 04 (e)4 ( ()3 (w)2 ( (f)2 ( (.po(e)4 ( ()3 (w)1.8

B.



