

---

---

## COMPLAINT

The Federal Trade Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 41, and by virtue of the authority vested in it by said Act, having reason to believe that the American Guild of Organists, Inc. ("Respondent" or "AGO"), a corporation, has violated and is violating the provisions of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45, and it appearing to the Commission that a proceeding by it in respect thereof would be in the public interest, hereby issues this Complaint, stating its charges as follows:

### I. NATURE OF THE CASE

1.

3. Respondent is a national association of organists and choral conductors with

“RULE 3. Members shall obtain the approval of the incumbent musician before accepting an engagement for a wedding, funeral, or other service requested by a third party. In such cases, the incumbent should receive his/her customary fee, and the third party is expected to provide it. It is the responsibility of the guest member to inform the third party of this rule.”

“The Discipline” refers to the AGO’s enforcement regime for the association’s Code of Ethics and other standards of conduct. An “incumbent musician” is a musician member who has a contract or other arrangement with a school, church, or other venue.

10. Respondent has developed, adopted, issued, published, recommended, and promoted a schedule of compensation to be used by members to determine secure compensation for their services. Respondent’s schedule specifies fees for various types of services (e.g., performance at weddings, funerals, religious ceremonies) and for various time commitments (e.g., full time, half time) and experience levels. Respondent’s schedule also specifies standard mileage charges and rates for 0025 special (g)-23

C. AGO's ENFORCEMENT REGIME

16. Respondent has adopted a Code of Professional Standards to ~~guide~~ ~~in~~ fulfilling their obligations. The section of the Code of Professional Standards entitled "Respect for Colleagues" states, "Members address differences with other members of the American Guild of Organists by following the procedures outlined in the Discipline."
17. Respondent's Discipline, most recently amended on January 23, 2015, prescribes that "[t]he Discipline