APPROVED:
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Associate Director
Division of Advertising Practices
-
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Bureau of Consumer Protection
Date:

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

**COMMISSIONERS:** Lina M. Khan, Chair

Noah Joshua Phillips Rebecca Kelly Slaughter Christine S. Wilson Alvaro M. Bedoya

In the Matter of

GOOGLE LLC, a limited liability company, and

**IHEARTMEDIA, INC.,** a corporation.

DECISION AND ORDER AGAINST RESPONDENT GOOGLE LLC

**DOCKET NO. C-**

#### **DECISION**

The Federal Trade Commission ("Commission") initiated an investigation of certain acts and practices of the Respondent named in the caption. The Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection ("BCP") prepared and furnished to Respondent a draft Complaint. BCP proposed to present the draft Complaint to the Commission for its consideration. If issued by the Commission, the draft Complaint would charge the Respondent with violations of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

Respondent and BCP thereafter executed an Agreement Containing Consent Order ("Consent Agreement"). The Consent Agreement includes: 1) statements by Respondent that it neither admits nor denies any of the allegations in the Complaint, except as specifically stated in this Decision and Order, and that only for purposes of this action, it admits the facts necessary to establish jurisdiction; and 2) waivers and other provisions as required by the Commission's Rules.

The Commission considered the matter and determined that it had reason to believe that Respondent has violated the Federal Trade Commission Act, and that a Complaint should issue stating its charges in that respect. The Commission accepted the executed Consent Agreement and placed it on the public record for a period of 30 days for the receipt and consideration of public comments. The Commission duly considered any comments received from interested persons pursuant to Section 2.34 of its Rules, 16 C.F.R. § 2.34. Now, in further conformity with the procedure prescribed in Rule 2.34, the Commission issues its Complaint, makes the following Findings, and issues the following Order:

## **Findings**

- 1. Respondent Google LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal office or place of business at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, California 94043.
- 2. The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding and over Respondent, and the proceeding is in the public interest.

#### **ORDER**

#### **Definitions**

For purposes of this Order, the following definitions apply:

- A. "Respondent" means Google LLC, a limited liability company, and its successors and assigns;
- B. "Covered Product" means (i) any Respondent consumer electronic product; (ii) any Respondent operating system for handheld devices; and (iii) any Respondent operating system or consumer-facing feature when marketed as part of any consumer electronic product;
- C. "Endorser" means a person who provides an endorsement of any of Respondent's products or services and has been paid by Respondent or who has any other relationship with Respondent that might affect the weight or credibility of the endorsement, including the receipt of free products or services.

#### **Provisions**

### I. Prohibited Representations

**IT IS ORDERED** that Respondent, and Respondent's 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 advertising, promotion, offering for sale, or sale of any Covered Product, must not make any misrepresentation, expressly or by implication:

- A. That an Endorser has owned or used the Covered Product; or
- B. About an Endorser's experience with the Covered Product.

## **II.** Cooperation

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent must fully cooperate with representatives of the Commission in any investigation or case related to or associated with the transactions or the occurrences that are the subject of the Complaint. Respondent must provide truthful and

complete information, evidence, and testimony. Respondent must cause its officers, employees, representatives, or agents to appear for interviews, discovery, hearings, trials, and any other proceedings that a Commission representative may reasonably request upon 5 days written notice, or other reasonable notice, at such places and times as a Commission representative may designate, without the service of a subpoena.

## III. Acknowledgments of the Order

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

- A. 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, Respondent must deliver a copy of this Order to: (1) all principals, officers, directors, and LLC managers and members; (2) all employees, agents, and representatives having managerial responsibilities for conduct related to the subject matter of the Order; 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 each individual or entity to which Respondent delivered a copy of this Order, Respondent must obtain, within 30 days, a signed and dated acknowledgment of receipt of this Order.

## IV. Compliance Reports and Notices

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondent make timely submissions to the Commission:

A. Two hundred seventy days after the issuance date of this Order, and each year thereafter, for 3 years, Respondent must submit a compliance report, sworn under penalty of perjury, in which it must: (a) identify the primary physical, postal, and email address and telephone number, as designated points of contact, which representatives of the Commission may use to communicate with Respondent; (b) identify all of Respondent's businesses involved in the advertising, promotion, offering for sale, or sale of any Covered Product by all of their names, telephone numbers, and physical, postal, email, and Internet addresses; (c) describe the activities of each business, including the Covered Products offered, and the means of advertising, marketing, and sales, including, if through Endorsers, a description of how Endorsers are paid or any other material connection with Respondent; (d) describe in detail whether and how Respondent is in compliance with each Provision of this Order, including a discussion of all of the changes Respondent made to comply with the Order; and (e) provide a copy of each Acknowledgment of the Order obtained pursuant to this Order, unless previously submitted to the Commission.

B. For 10 years after the issuance date of this Order, Respondent must submit a compliance notice, sworn under penalty of perjury, within 14 days of any change in: (a) any designated point of contact; or (b) the structure of Respondent or any entity that Respondent has any ownership interest in or controls directly or indirectly that may affect compliance obligations arising under this Order, including: creation, merger, sale, or

- A. Any Provision in this Order that terminates in less than 20 years; and
- B. This Order if such complaint is filed after the Order has terminated pursuant to this Provision.

that if such complaint is dismissed or a federal court rules that Respondent did not violate any provision of the Order, and the dismissal or ruling is either not appealed or upheld on appeal, then the Order will terminate according to this Provision as though the complaint had never been 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.