

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AGENCY CASE NO. 2015-AH-0032

ENTERED
MAR 19 2015
COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

COMPLAINANT

v.

SOUTHERN SPECIALTY FINANCE, INC.

RESPONDENT

AGREED ORDER

* * * * *

1. The Department of Financial Institutions (“DFI”) is responsible for regulating and licensing entities engaged in the business of cashing checks and accepting deferred deposit transactions in accordance with the provisions set forth in KRS Chapter 286.9.

2. Southern Specialty Finance, Inc. (“Respondent”) is authorized to do business in Kentucky as a deferred deposit and check cashing licensee pursuant to KRS Chapter 286.9, with an office located at 3976 Alexandria Pike, Cold Springs, Kentucky 41076. Respondent’s license number for the referenced location is CC18857.

3. The DFI conducted a routine examination of Respondent on November 3, 2014. During the examination, the DFI discovered that Respondent improperly closed transactions for three customers in the Veritec database when the customers still owed balances on their loans in violation of KRS 286.9-140(1). When the loans were reopened, each customer’s outstanding balance exceeded the limits allowed under KRS 286.9-100(9).

4. The DFI possesses a range of administrative authority in addressing violations of KRS Chapter 286.9 and the administrative regulations promulgated thereunder, including license suspension, license revocation, license denial, and the imposition of fines in an amount up to \$5,000 per violation. *See* KRS 286.9-110; 286.9-991.

5. In this case, the DFI assessed a fine against Respondent in the amount of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) for the above-described violations of KRS 286.9-100(9) and 286.9-140(1).

6. In the interest of economically and efficiently resolving the violation(s) described herein, the DFI and Respondent agree as follows:

a. Respondent agrees to, and shall pay the total fine assessed herein of six thousand dollars (\$6,000), which shall be due upon entry of this Agreed Order. The payment shall be in the form of a certified check or money order made payable to "Kentucky State Treasurer" and mailed to the Department of Financial Institutions, Attn: Non-Depository Division, 1025 Capital Center Drive, Suite 200, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601;

b. Respondent agrees to make restitution, by check drawn on the Respondent's account, to all affected customers by refunding the service fees on the transactions that created the database violation and to maintain records – consistent with KRS 286.9-074 – that such refund checks were issued to the customers and were processed for payment by the customer; and

c. Respondent shall devote the time and resources necessary to ensure continual and full compliance with all statutory requirements set forth in KRS Chapter 286.9.

7. Respondent waives its right to demand a hearing at which it would be entitled to legal representation, to confront and cross examine witnesses, and to present evidence on its own behalf, or to otherwise appeal or set aside this Order.

8. Respondent consents to and acknowledges the jurisdiction of the DFI over this matter, and acknowledges that this Agreed Order is a matter of public record and may be disseminated as such.

9. In consideration of execution of this Agreed Order, Respondent for itself, and for its successors and assigns, hereby releases and forever discharges the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the DFI, the Office of Legal Services, and each of their members, agents, and employees in their individual capacities, from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, known and unknown, in law or equity, that Respondent ever had, now has, may have or claim to have against any or all of the persons or entities named in this paragraph arising out of or by reason of this investigation, this disciplinary action, this settlement or its administration.

10. By signing below, the parties acknowledge they have read the foregoing Agreed Order, know and fully understand its contents, and that they are authorized to enter into and execute this Agreed Order and legally bind their respective parties.

11. This Agreed Order shall constitute the Final Order in this matter.

IT IS SO ORDERED on this the 18th day of MARCH, 2015.



CHARLES A. VICE
COMMISSIONER

Consented to:

This 17th day of March, 2015.

This 13 day of March, 2015.

Tammy R. Scruggs
Tammy Scruggs, Director
Division of Non-Depository Institutions
Department of Financial Institutions

[Signature]
Authorized Representative
Southern Specialty Finance, Inc.
License #CC18857

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

STATE OF Ohio)
COUNTY OF Hamilton)

On this the 13th day of March, 2014, before me Cyndi Parker the undersigned, Kimberly Lind, did personally appear and acknowledge himself/herself to be the authorized representative of Southern Specialty Finance, Inc. (License #CC18857) and that he/she, being authorized to do so, entered into and executed the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand.

My Commission Expires: 6/14/16

Cynthia L. Parker
Notary Public



Cynthia L. Parker
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires 6/14/16

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing **Agreed Order** was sent on this the 19 day of March, 2015, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the following:

Benjamin Alexander
Southern Specialty Finance, Inc.
7755 Montgomery Road, Suite 400
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

And by hand-delivery to:

John C. Allender
Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions
1025 Capital Center Drive, Suite 200
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601



Christina Hayden
Department of Financial Institutions