## **ORDER SUMMARY – Case Number: C-11-0634**

Name(s):	Freedom Companies, Inc. a/k/a Freedom Companies Lending and			
	David Preiner	•		
	_			
Order Number:	C-11-0634-12	-CO01		
Effective Date:	January 18, 20	013		
License Number: Or NMLS Identifier [U/L] License Effect:	U/L  (Revoked, suspended, stayed, application denied or withdrawn)  If applicable, you must specifically note the ending dates of terms.  n/a			
License Effect.	11/ a			
Not Apply Until:				
Not Eligible Until:				
Prohibition/Ban Until:	10 year ban			
<b>Investigation Costs</b>	\$	Due	Paid N N	Date
Fine	\$4,000	Due – refer to collections	Paid ☐ Y ⊠ N	Date
Assessment(s)	\$	Due	Paid Y N	Date
Restitution	\$1495	Due- payable to borrower	Paid ☐ Y ⊠ N	Date
Judgment	\$	Due	Paid Y N	Date
Satisfaction of Judgment I		□ Y □ N	1	
	No. of Victims:	3		
		ı	1	
Comments: Respondents banned for	or 10 years and \$4,0	00 fine to be immediately	y referred to collec	etions

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES

3 IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING
Whether there has been a violation of the

Whether there has been a violation of the Mortgage Broker Practices Act of Washington by:

FREEDOM COMPANIES, INC. A/K/A FREEDOM COMPANIES LENDING, and DAVID PREINER, President,

No.: C-11-0634-12-CO01

**CONSENT ORDER** 

Respondents.

COMES NOW the Director of the Department of Financial Institutions (Director), through his designee Deborah Bortner, Division Director, Division of Consumer Services, and Freedom Companies, Inc. a/k/a Freedom Companies Lending (Respondent Freedom Companies) and David Preiner, President (Respondent Preiner), and finding that the issues raised in the above-captioned matter may be economically and efficiently settled, agree to the entry of this Consent Order. This Consent Order is entered pursuant to chapter 19.146 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), and RCW 34.05.060 of the Administrative Procedure Act, based on the following:

#### AGREEMENT AND ORDER

The Department of Financial Institutions, Division of Consumer Services (Department) and Respondents have agreed upon a basis for resolution of the matters alleged in Statement of Charges No. C-11-0634-12-SC01 (Statement of Charges), entered September 27, 2012, (copy attached hereto). Pursuant to chapter 19.146 RCW, the Mortgage Broker Practices Act (Act) and RCW 34.05.060 of the Administrative Procedure Act, Respondents hereby agree to the Department's entry of this Consent Order and further agree that the issues raised in the above-captioned matter may be economically and efficiently settled by entry of this Consent Order. The parties intend this Consent Order to fully resolve the Statement of Charges. Respondents are agreeing not to contest the Statement of Charges in consideration of the terms of this Consent Order.

CONSENT ORDER
C-11-0634-12-CO01
Freedom Companies, Inc. a/k/a Freedom Companies Lending and David Preiner

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
Division of Consumer Services
150 Israel Rd SW
PO Box 41200
Olympia, WA 98504-1200
(360) 902-8703

18

21

Based upon the foregoing:

- A. **Jurisdiction**. It is AGREED that the Department has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the activities discussed herein.
- B. Waiver of Hearing. It is AGREED that Respondents have been informed of the right to a hearing before an administrative law judge, and hereby waive their right to a hearing and any and all administrative and judicial review of the issues raised in this matter, or of the resolution reached herein. Accordingly, Respondents, by the signatures below, withdraw their appeal to the Office of Administrative Hearings.
- C. No Admission of Liability. It is AGREED that Respondents do not admit to any wrongdoing by entry of this Consent Order.
- D. Cease and Desist. It is AGREED that Respondents shall cease and desist from conducting the business of a mortgage broker in the state of Washington.
- E. **Prohibition from Industry**. It is AGREED that, for a period of ten (10) years from the date of entry of this Consent Order, Respondents are prohibited from participating in the conduct of the affairs of any mortgage broker licensed by the Department or subject to licensure or regulation by the Department, in any capacity.
- F. **Restitution**. It is AGREED that Respondents shall pay restitution in the amount of \$1,495 to consumer. as identified in the Restitution Schedule attached to the Statement of Charges. It is further AGREED that Respondents have already paid restitution to the other consumers identified in the Restitution Schedule attached to the Statement of Charges.
- G. **Fine**. It is AGREED that Respondents shall jointly and severally pay a fine to the Department in the amount of \$4,000. It is further AGREED that the Department may immediately refer this Consent Order to its contracted collections agency without further notice to Respondents,

and that Respondents shall make all payments through the collections agency in such amounts as established through that process. Respondents acknowledge that in pursuing amounts owed hereunder, the collection agency may require payment of additional costs related to its collection efforts.

- H. Authority to Execute Order. It is AGREED that the undersigned have represented and warranted that they have the full power and right to execute this Consent Order on behalf of the parties represented.
- I. Non-Compliance with Order. It is AGREED that Respondents understand that failure to abide by the terms and conditions of this Consent Order may result in further legal action by the Director. In the event of such legal action, Respondents may be responsible to reimburse the Director for the cost incurred in pursuing such action, including but not limited to, attorney fees.
- J. Voluntarily Entered. It is AGREED that the undersigned Respondents have voluntarily entered into this Consent Order, which is effective when signed by the Director's designee.
- K. Completely Read, Understood, and Agreed. It is AGREED that Respondents have read this Consent Order in its entirety and fully understand and agree to all of the same.

#### **RESPONDENTS:**

Freedom Companies, Inc. a/k/a
Freedom Companies Lending
By:
David Preiner
President
David Preiner
Individually

/ - 2 - /3

/ -

Date

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

23

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Division of Consumer Services Department of Financial Institutions

DAY OF January, 2013

DEBORAH BORTNER

Director

#### 1 STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS 2 **DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES** 3 IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING No. C-11-0634-12-SC01 Whether there has been a violation of the Mortgage Broker Practices Act of Washington by: 4 STATEMENT OF CHARGES and NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER AN 5 FREEDOM COMPANIES, INC. A/K/A ORDER TO PRODUCE RECORDS. FREEDOM COMPANIES LENDING, and CEASE AND DESIST BUSINESS, DAVID PREINER, President, PROHIBIT FROM INDUSTRY, ORDER 6 RESTITUTION, IMPOSE FINE, AND COLLECT INVESTIGATION FEE 7 Respondents. 8 INTRODUCTION 9 Pursuant to RCW 19.146.220 and RCW 19.146.223, the Director of the Department of Financial 10 Institutions of the State of Washington (Director) is responsible for the administration of chapter 11 19.146 RCW, the Mortgage Broker Practices (Act). After having conducted an investigation pursuant 12 to RCW 19.146.235, and based upon the facts available as of the date of this Statement of Charges, the 13 Director, through his designee, Division of Consumer Services Director Deborah Bortner, institutes 14 this proceeding and finds as follows: 15 I. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS 16 1.1 Respondent Freedom Companies, Inc. A/K/A Freedom Companies Lending (Respondent 17 Freedom Companies) has never been licensed by the Department of Financial Institutions of the State 18 of Washington (Department) to conduct business as a mortgage broker or loan originator. 19 1.2 Respondent David Preiner (Respondent Preiner) is President of Respondent Freedom 20 Companies. During the relevant time period, Respondent Preiner was not licensed by the Department 21 to conduct business as a mortgage broker or loan originator. 22 1.3 Unlicensed Activity. Between at least July 22, 2009, and July 30, 2010, Respondents 23 Freedom Companies and Preiner (Respondents) were offering residential mortgage loan modification 24 services to Washington consumers on property located in Washington State. Respondents entered into

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

1	a
2	c
3	c
4	r
5	S
6	b
7	r
8	1
9	p
10	li
11	1
12	A
13	
14	2
15	66
16	c
17	o
18	iı
19	p
20	o
21	2
22	n

a contractual relationship with at least one Washington consumer to provide those services and collected an advance fee for the provision of those services. The Department has received at least one complaint from a Washington consumer alleging Respondents provided or offered to provide residential mortgage loan modification services while not licensed by the Department to provide those services. A list of Washington consumers with whom Respondents conducted business as a mortgage broker or loan originator, and the amount paid by each is appended hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

- **1.4 Misrepresentations and Omissions.** Respondents represented that they were licensed to provide the residential mortgage loan modification services or omitted disclosing that they were not licensed to provide those services.
- 1.5 On-Going Investigation. The Department's investigation into the alleged violations of the Act by Respondents continues to date.

#### II. GROUNDS FOR ENTRY OF ORDER

- 2.1 Mortgage Broker Defined. Pursuant to RCW 19.146.010(14) and WAC 208-660-006, "Mortgage Broker" means any person who, for compensation or gain, or in the expectation of compensation or gain (a) assists a person in obtaining or applying to obtain a residential mortgage loan or (b) holds himself or herself out as being able to make a residential mortgage loan or assist a person in obtaining or applying to obtain a residential mortgage loan. Pursuant to WAC 208-660-006, a person "assists a person in obtaining or applying to obtain a residential mortgage loan' by, among other things, counseling on loan terms (rates, fees, other costs), [and] preparing loan packages..."
- **2.2 Loan Originator Defined.** Pursuant to RCW 19.146.010(11), "loan originator" means a natural person who for direct or indirect compensation or gain, or in the expectation of direct or indirect compensation or gain: takes a residential mortgage loan application for a mortgage broker;

1	offers or negotiates terms of a mortgage loan; or holds themselves out to the public as able to perform
2	any of these activities.
3	2.3 Prohibited Acts. Based on the Factual Allegations set forth in Section I above, Respondents
4	are in apparent violation of RCW 19.146.0201(2) & (3) for engaging in an unfair or deceptive practice
5	toward any person and obtaining property by fraud or misrepresentation.
6	2.4 Requirement to Obtain and Maintain Mortgage Broker License. Based on the Factual
7	Allegations set forth in Section I above, Respondents are in apparent violation of RCW 19.146.200(1)
8	for engaging in the business of a mortgage broker for Washington residents or property without first
9	obtaining a license to do so.
0	2.5 Requirement to Obtain and Maintain Loan Originator License. Based on the Factual
.1	Allegations set forth in Section I above, Respondents are in apparent violation of RCW 19.146.200(1)
2	for engaging in the business of a loan originator without first obtaining and maintaining a license.
.3	2.6 Requirement to Maintain Accurate and Current Books and Records. Pursuant to RCW
.4	19.146.060 and WAC 208-660-450, Respondents are required to keep all books and records in a
.5	location that is on file with and readily available to the Department until at least twenty-five months
.6	have elapsed following the effective period to which the books and records relate.
.7	III. AUTHORITY TO ORDER PRODUCTION OF RECORDS
8	3.1 Authority to Order Production of Records. Pursuant to RCW 19.146.223, RCW 19.146.
9	235(2), and WAC 208-660-520, the Director may issue orders directing any person to produce books,
20	accounts, records, files, and any other documents the director or designated person deems relevant to
21	an investigation.
22	
23	
24	
	STATEMENT OF CHARGES 3 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

	l	

3

## 4

5

## 6

7

#### 8

9

## 10

11

### 12

13

#### 14

15

#### 16

17

#### 18

19

## 20

21

#### 22

23

#### 24

#### IV. AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS

- **4.1** Authority to Issue an Order to Cease and Desist. Pursuant to RCW 19.146.220(4), the Director may issue orders directing any person subject to the Act to cease and desist from conducting business.
- **4.2 Authority to Prohibit from Industry.** Pursuant to RCW 19.146.220(5), the Director may issue orders prohibiting from participation in the conduct of the affairs of a licensed mortgage broker any person subject to licensing under the Act for any violation of RCW 19.146.0201(1) through (9) or (13), or RCW 19.146.200.
- **4.3 Authority to Order Restitution.** Pursuant to RCW 19.146.220(2), the Director may order restitution against any person subject to the Act for any violation of the Act.
- **4.4 Authority to Impose Fine.** Pursuant to RCW 19.146.220(2), the Director may impose fines against any person subject to the Act for any violation of the Act.
- **4.5** Authority to Collect Investigation Fee. Pursuant to RCW 19.146.228(2), and WAC 208-660-550(4)(a), the Department will charge forty-eight dollars per hour for an examiner's time devoted to an investigation of any person subject to the Act.

#### V. NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER ORDER

Respondents' violations of the provisions of chapter 19.146 RCW and chapter 208-660 WAC, as set forth above constitute a basis for the entry of an Order under RCW 19.146.220, RCW 19.146.221, and RCW 19.146.223. Therefore, it is the Director's intent to ORDER that:

- **5.1** Respondents cease and desist engaging in the business of a mortgage broker or loan originator.
- 5.2 Respondents provide the Department with a list detailing all residential mortgage loan modification services transactions with Washington consumers, including the name, address, and phone numbers of the consumers, the transaction date, and fees collected by Respondents for the provision of those services.
- 5.3 Respondents be prohibited from participation in the conduct of the affairs of any mortgage broker subject to licensure by the Director, in any manner, for a period of five years.

- 5.4 Respondents jointly and severally pay restitution to the three consumers identified by the Department in paragraph 1.3 as having paid \$6,890 to Respondents, and that Respondents jointly and severally pay restitution to each Washington consumer with whom they entered into a contract for residential mortgage loan modification services related to real property or consumers located in the state of Washington equal to the amount collected from that Washington consumer for those services in an amount to be determined at hearing.
- 5.5 Respondents jointly and severally pay a fine of \$3,000 for each residential loan modification transaction entered into with Washington consumers. As of the date of this Statement of Charges, the fine totals \$9,000.
- **5.6** Respondents jointly and severally pay an investigation fee at the rate of \$48.00 per hour. As of the date of this Statement of Charges, the investigation fee totals \$859.
- 5.7 Respondents maintain records in compliance with the Act and provide the Department with the location of the books, records and other information relating to Respondents' provision of residential mortgage loan modification services in Washington, and the name, address and telephone number of the individual responsible for maintenance of such records in compliance with the Act.

#### VI. AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE

This Statement of Charges is entered pursuant to the provisions of RCW 19.146.220, RCW 19.146.221, RCW 19.146.223, and RCW 19.146.230, and is subject to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW (The Administrative Procedure Act). Respondents may make a written request for a hearing as set forth in the NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING accompanying this Statement of Charges.

Dated this 27 th day of September, 2012.





Director, Division of Consumer Services
Department of Financial Institutions

1	Presented by:
2	
3	DEVON P. PHELPS
4	Financial Legal Examiner
5	Approved by
6	Approved by:
7	CHARLES E. CLARK
8	Enforcement Chief
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	

24

## RESTITUTION

TOTAL

\$6,890

Borrower

\$995 \$3,900

Amount

\$1,995

A-I

Appendix A- Restitution

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Division of Consumer Services 150 Israel Rd SW PO Box 41200

Olympia, WA 98504-1200 (360) 902-8703