
IN THE MATTER OF:

**FRESH START FUNDING, LLC
d/b/a OPEN WALLET
NMLS # 1864357**

(“Respondent”)

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**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE
ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST**

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOSE
CIVIL PENALTY**

AND

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO HEARING

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. The Banking Commissioner (“Commissioner”) is charged with the administration of Part III of Chapter 668, Sections 36a-555 to 36a-573, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, “Small Loan Lending and Related Activities”, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, Sections 36a-570-1 to 36a-570-17, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

2. Pursuant to the authority granted by Section 36a-17 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner, through the Consumer Credit Division of the Department of Banking (“Department”), conducted an investigation concerning Respondent to determine if it had violated, was violating or was about to violate the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes and Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner (“Investigation”).

3. As a result of the Investigation, the Commissioner has reason to believe that Respondent has violated an order of the Commissioner.

4. As a result of the Investigation, the violation alleged by the Commissioner forms the basis to issue an order to cease and desist against Respondent pursuant to Section 36a-52(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes and to impose a civil penalty against Respondent pursuant to Section 36a-50(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

II. MATTERS ASSERTED

5. Respondent is an Arizona limited liability company with its main office located at 1840 E. Rawhide Street, Gilbert, Arizona, which has never been licensed as a small loan company in Connecticut. Daniel Garrison is the Founder, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Respondent.

6. On September 9, 2025, the Commissioner issued a Consent Order against Respondent to resolve allegations of unlicensed small loan activity (“Consent Order”). The Commissioner alleged that between August 2021 and September 2025, Fresh Start facilitated consumer financing of legal fees by extending lines of credit to law firms and receiving payments on loans to Connecticut borrowers for such legal fees without a small loan company license, in violation of subdivision (4) of Section 36a-556(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, in effect at such time. The Consent Order required, among other items, that Respondent submit annual financial statements to the Department no later than July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027 and July 1, 2028.

7. As of October 1, 2026, Respondent has failed to submit the annual financial statements required to be submitted no later than July 1, 2026, pursuant to paragraph 2 of the Consent to Entry of Sanctions within the Consent Order.

III. STATUTORY BASIS FOR ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST AND IMPOSITION OF CIVIL PENALTY

8. Respondent’s failure to submit annual financial statements to the Department by July 1, 2026, as required by the Consent Order, as more fully described in paragraphs 5 through 7, inclusive, constitutes a violation of an order of the Commissioner. Such violation forms the basis to issue an order to cease and desist against Respondent pursuant to Section 36a-52(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes and to impose a civil penalty upon Respondent pursuant to Section 36a-50(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes. Section 36a-50(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes the Commissioner to impose a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) per violation.

**IV. NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE ORDER
TO CEASE AND DESIST, NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOSE CIVIL PENALTY
AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO HEARING**

WHEREAS, the Commissioner has reason to believe that Respondent has engaged in acts or conduct which forms a basis to issue an order to cease and desist pursuant to Section 36a-52(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes and to impose a civil penalty upon Respondent pursuant to Section 36a-50(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes;

NOW THEREFORE, notice is hereby given to Respondent that the Commissioner intends to issue an order requiring Respondent to **CEASE AND DESIST** from violating the Consent Order and impose a **CIVIL PENALTY** upon Respondent as set forth herein, subject to Respondent's right to a hearing on the allegations set forth above.

A hearing will be granted to Respondent if a written request for a hearing is received by the Department of Banking, Consumer Credit Division, 280 Trumbull Street, 16th Floor, Hartford, Connecticut 06103-1800 or submitted by e-mail to DOB.hearingsupport@ct.gov within fourteen (14) days following Respondent's receipt of this Notice of Intent to Issue Order to Cease and Desist, Notice of Intent to Impose Civil Penalty and Notice of Right to Hearing as set forth in subsection (a) of Section 36a-50 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and Section 36a-52(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes. This Notice of Intent to Issue Order to Cease and Desist, Notice of Intent to Impose Civil Penalty and Notice of Right to Hearing shall be deemed received on the earlier of the date of actual receipt, or seven (7) days after mailing or sending. To request a hearing, complete and return the enclosed Appearance and Request for Hearing Form to one of the above-referenced addresses. If Respondent will not be represented by an attorney at the hearing, please complete the Appearance and Request for Hearing Form as "pro se".

If a hearing is requested, it will be held in person at the Department's offices. Once a written request for a hearing is received, the Commissioner may issue a notification of hearing and designation of hearing officer that acknowledges receipt of a request for a hearing, designates a hearing officer and sets the date of the hearing in accordance with Section 4-177 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section

36a-1-21 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. At the discretion of the Hearing Officer, for good cause shown, the Hearing Officer may approve requests for remote participation in the hearing by a Respondent, witness or attorney. If such requests are approved by the Hearing Officer, such remote participation will be conducted via videoconference. If a hearing is requested, the hearing will be held on December 1, 2026 at 10 a.m.

If a hearing is requested, it will be held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes, unless Respondent fails to appear at the requested hearing. At such hearing, Respondent will have the right to appear and present evidence, rebuttal evidence and argument on all issues of fact and law to be considered by the Commissioner. Remote participation in a hearing will be held in accordance with Section 1-225a of the Connecticut General Statutes, and the Remote Hearing Guidelines available on the Department's website at <https://portal.ct.gov/dob>.

If Respondent does not request a hearing within the time prescribed or fails to appear at any such hearing, the allegations herein will be deemed admitted. Accordingly, the Commissioner will issue an order that Respondent cease and desist from violating the Consent Order and may order a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) per violation be imposed upon Respondent.

So ordered at Hartford, Connecticut
This 6th day of October 2026.

/s/

Jorge L. Perez
Banking Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that on this 7th day of October 2026, the foregoing Notice of Intent to Issue Order to Cease and Desist, Notice of Intent to Impose Civil Penalty and Notice of Right to Hearing was sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to Fresh Start Funding, LLC d/b/a Open Wallet, Attention Daniel Garrison, at 1840 E Rawhide Street, Gilbert, Arizona 85296, Certified Mail No. 9589 0710 5270 9847 68 , PO Box 3137, Gilbert, Arizona 85299, Certified Mail No. 9589 0710 5270 9847 75, 40 W. Baseline Road, Suite 216, Tempe, Arizona 85283, Certified Mail No. 9589 0710 5270 9847 82, and 1805 N Scottsdale Rd, Suite 100, Tempe, AZ 85281, Certified Mail No. 9589 0710 5270 9847 99.

 /s/
Isaac Graham
Staff Attorney