

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	Case No. 1:13-cv-01530
	)	
v.	)	Judge Charles Norgle
	)	
JASON Q. CRUZ, individually and also doing business as APPIDEMIC, INC.,	)	Magistrate Judge Mary M. Rowland
	)	
Defendant.	)	
	)	

**STIPULATED PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION ORDER**

WHEREAS, Plaintiff, the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC” or “Commission”), filed its Complaint for Permanent Injunction and Other Equitable Relief in this matter on February 28, 2013, pursuant to Section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (“FTC Act”), 15 U.S.C. § 53(b);

WHEREAS, the FTC moved for a Temporary Restraining Order with Other Equitable Relief and Order to Show Cause Why a Preliminary Injunction Should Not Issue (“TRO Motion”) pursuant to Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2013, the Court granted the FTC’s TRO Motion and entered a Temporary Restraining Order with Other Equitable Relief and Order to Show Cause Why a Preliminary Injunction Should Not Issue (“TRO”);

WHEREAS, Defendant Jason Q. Cruz, also doing business as Appidemic, Inc., has received service of the Complaint, Summons and the papers filed in support of the FTC’s TRO Motion;

WHEREAS, the FTC and Defendant Jason Q. Cruz, by and through their counsel, have consented to entry of this Stipulated Preliminary Injunction Order.

It is hereby **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** as follows:

**FINDINGS**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case and over Defendant.
2. Venue lies properly with this Court.
3. There is good cause to believe that Defendant Jason Q. Cruz, also doing business as Appidemic, Inc., has engaged in, and is likely to engage in the future in, acts and practices that violate Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), and that the Commission is therefore likely to prevail on the merits of this action.
4. There is good cause to believe that immediate and irreparable damage to the Court's ability to grant effective final relief for consumers in the form of monetary restitution will occur from the sale, transfer, assignment, or other disposition or concealment by Defendant of his assets or records unless Defendant is restrained and enjoined by order of this Court. Therefore, there is good cause for entry of the ancillary relief contained in this Order, including an order preserving Defendant's assets and prohibiting Defendant from destroying records.
5. Weighing the equities and considering the Commission's likelihood of ultimate success, this Preliminary Injunction Order is in the public interest.
6. No security is required of any agency of the United States for the issuance of a preliminary injunction order. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(c).

### DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Stipulated Preliminary Injunction Order (“Order”), the following definitions shall apply:

1. **“Asset” or “Assets”** means any legal or equitable interest in, right to, or claim to, any real or personal property, including, but not limited to, “goods,” “instruments,” “equipment,” “fixtures,” “general intangibles,” “inventory,” “checks,” or “notes” (as these terms are defined in the Uniform Commercial Code), lines of credit, chattels, leaseholds, contracts, mail or other deliveries, shares of stock, lists of consumer names, accounts, credits, premises, receivables, funds, and all cash, wherever located.

2. **“Assisting others”** includes, but is not limited to: (a) performing customer service functions, including, but not limited to, receiving or responding to consumer complaints; (b) formulating or providing, or arranging for the formulation or provision of, any sales script or other marketing material; (c) providing names of, or assisting in the generation of, potential customers, including, but not limited to, the sending of text messages or email messages; (d) verifying, processing, fulfilling, or arranging for the fulfillment of orders; (e) performing or providing marketing, billing, or collection services of any kind, including, but not limited to, creating, hosting, or maintaining websites, or recruiting affiliates; or (f) acting as an officer or director of a business entity.

3. **“Defendant”** means Jason Q. Cruz, individually and also doing business as Appidemic, Inc., and by whatever other names he may be known.

4. **“Document” or “Documents”** means any materials listed in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34(a) and includes writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, audio and video recordings, computer records, and other data compilations from which information can be

obtained and translated, if necessary, into reasonably usable form through detection devices. A draft or nonidentical copy is a separate Document within the meaning of the term.

5. **“Electronic data host”** means any person or entity that stores, hosts, or otherwise maintains electronically stored information or computer equipment.

6. **“Internet service provider”** means a company that provides third parties with access to the Internet.

7. **“Material”** means likely to affect a person’s choice of, or conduct regarding, goods or services.

8. **“Person”** means a natural person, an organization or other legal entity, including a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, limited liability company, association, cooperative, or any other group or combination acting as an entity.

9. **“Plaintiff”** means the Federal Trade Commission (“Commission” or “FTC”).

10. **“Unauthorized or Unsolicited Commercial Electronic Text Message”** means an unauthorized or unsolicited text message the primary purpose of which is a commercial advertisement or promotion of a commercial product or service (including the content on an Internet website operated for commercial purposes).

**I.**

**PROHIBITED BUSINESS ACTIVITIES  
RELATING TO ANY PRODUCT, SERVICE, OR PROGRAM**

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Defendant, and his officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any trust, corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, or any of them, in

connection with the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, or sale of any product, service, or program, are hereby restrained and enjoined from:

A. Misrepresenting, or assisting others in misrepresenting, expressly or by implication, any material fact, including, but not limited to, that consumers have won a contest or have been specifically selected to receive a gift or prize that is “free” or without cost or obligation;

B. Failing to disclose or disclose adequately to consumers the material terms and conditions of any offer, including, but not limited to:

1. that consumers must pay money or other consideration to receive the gift or prize; and
2. the costs and obligations to receive the gift or prize.

## II.

### PROHIBITION ON MAKING UNAUTHORIZED OR UNSOLICITED COMMERCIAL ELECTRONIC TEXT MESSAGES

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant, and his officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any trust, corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, or any of them, in connection with the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, or sale of any product, service, or program, are hereby restrained and enjoined from making or initiating, or procuring the transmission of, or assisting others in making or initiating, or procuring the transmission of, unauthorized or unsolicited commercial electronic text messages to mobile telephones and other wireless devices.

**III.**

**ASSET PRESERVATION**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

A. Defendant, and his officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any trust, corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, or any of them, are hereby restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly selling, transferring, alienating, liquidating, encumbering, pledging, loaning, assigning, concealing, dissipating, converting, withdrawing or making any other disposition of any assets or any interest therein, wherever located, including any assets outside the territorial United States, that are owned, controlled or held by, or for the benefit of, in whole or in part, Defendant, or in the actual or constructive possession of Defendant.

B. The assets affected by this Section shall include both existing assets and assets acquired after the effective date of this Order.

C. Notwithstanding Section III.A above, and subject to prior written agreement with the Commission or prior approval by the Court, Defendant may, upon compliance with Section IV (Financial Reports and Accounting), *infra*, withdraw, transfer, encumber, or otherwise dissipate assets for the actual, ordinary, and necessary business or living expenses that Defendant reasonably incurs.

D. To the extent that Defendant withdraws, transfers, encumbers, or otherwise dissipates assets pursuant to Section III.C of this Order, he shall provide an accounting of his expenses to counsel for the Commission for each calendar month.

**IV.**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTING**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, unless previously submitted in full compliance with the TRO, Defendant shall provide to counsel for the Commission, no later than three (3) business days after entry of this Order:

A. A completed financial statement accurate as of the date of entry of this Order, in the form served on Defendant with the TRO as **Attachment A** for individuals and **Attachment B** for businesses, as the case may be, signed under penalty of perjury. The financial statements shall include assets held outside the territory of the United States, shall be accurate as of the date of the entry of this Order, and shall be verified under oath. Defendant shall attach to these completed financial statements copies of all local, state, provincial, and federal income and property tax returns, with attachments and schedules, as called for by the instructions to the financial statement; and

B. A detailed accounting, verified under oath, of:

1. the names of all products, services or programs advertised, marketed, promoted, offered for sale, sold, or distributed since January 1, 2011;

2. gross revenues and net profits (in U.S. Dollars) obtained from the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, or sale of each product, service, or program identified in Subsection IV.B.1 above, from inception of the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, or sale of that product, service, or program through the date of entry of this Order; and

3. the name, address, telephone number, email address, website address, and contact person of each entity or person that: (i) supplied, manufactured, formulated, or

created any product, service, or program that is advertised, marketed, promoted, offered for sale, sold, or distributed by or on behalf of Defendant, (ii) provided any order fulfillment services of any kind, including, but not limited to, drop shipping, mailing, and/or distributing products, for or on behalf of Defendant, or (iii) paid Defendant, whether directly or indirectly, related to Defendant's advertisement, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, or sale of any product, service, or program.

V.

**POSTING NOTICE OF LAWSUIT ON AND PRESERVING WEBSITES**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, immediately upon entry of this Order, Defendant, and his officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any trust, corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, or any of them, and any other person or entity served with a copy of this Order, shall:

A. Immediately take whatever action is necessary to ensure that any website used by Defendant for the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, or sale of any product, service or program shall prominently display the following statement:

The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") has filed a lawsuit against Defendant Jason Q. Cruz, also doing business as Appidemic, Inc., alleging that he has engaged in deceptive and unfair practices relating to the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, or sale of products, services or programs, including purportedly "free" merchandise such as \$1000 gift cards or Apple iPads. The United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois has issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting the alleged practices. You may obtain additional information directly from the FTC at [www.ftc.gov/opa/2013/03/textmessages.shtm](http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2013/03/textmessages.shtm).

Each website carrying this message shall also provide a hypertext link to the FTC's home page

at [www.ftc.gov/opa/2013/03/textmessages.shtm](http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2013/03/textmessages.shtm), or another website designated by counsel for the Commission;

B. Prevent the destruction or erasure of any website used by Defendant for the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or provision of any product, service, or program by preserving such websites in the format in which they are maintained currently, except for the notice required by Subsection A of this Section; and

C. Immediately notify counsel for the Commission of all websites operated or controlled by Defendant.

**VI.**

**PRESERVATION OF RECORDS  
AND EQUIPMENT; REPORT OF NEW BUSINESS ACTIVITY**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant and his officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any trust, corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, or any of them, are hereby restrained and enjoined from:

A. Failing to create and maintain books, records, accounts, bank statements, current accountants' reports, general ledgers, general journals, cash receipts ledgers, cash disbursements ledgers and source documents, documents indicating title to real or personal property, and any other data which, in reasonable detail, accurately, fairly, and completely reflect Defendant's income, and the disbursements, transactions, dispositions, and uses of Defendant's assets;

B. Destroying, erasing, mutilating, concealing, altering, transferring, or otherwise disposing of, in any manner, directly or indirectly, any documents, including electronically-

stored materials and any data on mobile devices or other equipment used in sending commercial electronic text messages, that relate in any way to: the business practices or business or personal finances of Defendant, or the business practices or finances of entities directly or indirectly under the control of Defendant;

C. Selling, transferring, destroying, damaging, altering, concealing, or otherwise disposing of, in any manner, directly or indirectly, any equipment used in sending commercial electronic text messages; and

D. Creating, operating, or exercising any control over any business entity, whether newly-formed or previously inactive, including any partnership, limited partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, or corporation, without first providing the Commission with a written statement disclosing: (1) the name of the business entity; (2) the address, telephone number, email address, and website address of the business entity; (3) the names of the business entity's officers, directors, principals, managers, and employees; and (4) a detailed description of the business entity's intended activities.

## VII.

### **IDENTIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC DATA HOSTS, TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, unless previously submitted in full compliance with the TRO, Defendant shall:

A. Provide counsel for the Commission, within five (5) business days of entry of this Order, with a sworn statement disclosing the name and location of any electronic data host, and the location of computer equipment, related to Defendant's initiation, procurement, or transmission of commercial electronic text messages, and describing, to the extent known, the

make(s) and model(s) of the computer equipment, as well as the operating system(s) in use, and the number, size, and capacity of any mass storage arrays or devices;

B. Serve this Order on any such electronic data host, and inform any such electronic data host that:

1. Any data that it hosts, stores or otherwise maintains that is related to Defendant's initiation, procurement, or transmission of commercial electronic text messages is the subject of litigation involving the Commission; and

2. The electronic data host has a duty to preserve all records related to Defendant's initiation, procurement, or transmission of commercial electronic text messages;

C. Provide counsel for the Commission, within five (5) business days of entry of this Order, with a sworn statement disclosing the identity of any Internet service provider and attaching the account records for Defendant identifying the IP addresses and hosts accessing any of Defendant's accounts for the last three years; and

D. Provide counsel for the Commission, within five (5) business days of entry of this Order, with a sworn statement identifying, by telephone number, telephone service provider, and dates of service, each telephone number used by Defendant or his officers, agents, servants, employees, affiliates, or any other persons in active concert or participation with any of them, to send commercial electronic text messages to any consumer since January 1, 2011.

#### VIII.

#### **PROHIBITION ON DISCLOSING CUSTOMER INFORMATION**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant, and his officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of

them, who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or through any trust, corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, or any of them, are hereby restrained and enjoined from:

A. Selling, renting, leasing, transferring, or otherwise disclosing the name, address, birth date, telephone number, email address, Social Security number, Social Insurance number, credit card number, bank account number, or other financial or identifying personal information of any person from whom or about whom Defendant obtained such information in connection with activities alleged in Plaintiff's Complaint; and

B. Benefitting from or using the name, address, birth date, telephone number, email address, Social Security number, Social Insurance number, credit card number, bank account number, or other financial or identifying personal information of any person from whom or about whom Defendant obtained such information in connection with activities alleged in Plaintiff's Complaint.

Provided, however, that Defendant may disclose such financial or identifying personal information to a law enforcement agency or as required by any law, regulation, or court order.

## IX.

### EXPEDITED DISCOVERY

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 30(a), 31(a), 34, and 45, and notwithstanding the provisions of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 26(d) and (f), 30(a)(2)(A), and 31(a)(2)(A), the parties are granted leave, at any time after entry of this Order to:

A. Take the deposition of any person, whether or not a party, for the purpose of discovering the nature, location, status, and extent of the assets of Defendant, and Defendant's

affiliates and subsidiaries; the nature and location of documents reflecting the business transactions of Defendant, and Defendant's affiliates and subsidiaries; the location of any premises where Defendant, directly or through any third party, conducts business operations; the Defendant's whereabouts; and/or the applicability of any evidentiary privileges to this action; and

B. Demand the production of Documents from any person, whether or not a party, relating to the nature, status, and extent of the assets of Defendant, and Defendant's affiliates and subsidiaries; the nature and location of documents reflecting the business transactions of Defendant, and Defendant's affiliates and subsidiaries; the location of any premises where Defendant, directly or through any third party, conducts business operations; Defendant's whereabouts; and/or the applicability of any evidentiary privileges to this action.

Three (3) days notice shall be deemed sufficient for any such deposition, five (5) days notice shall be deemed sufficient for the production of any such documents, and twenty-four (24) hours notice shall be deemed sufficient for the production of any such documents that are maintained or stored only as electronic data. The provisions of this Section shall apply both to parties to this case and to non-parties. The limitations and conditions set forth in Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2)(A)(ii) and 31(a)(2)(A)(ii) regarding subsequent depositions of an individual shall not apply to depositions taken pursuant to this Section. Any such depositions taken pursuant to this Section shall not be counted toward any limit on the number of depositions under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or the Local Rules of Civil Procedure for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, including those set forth in Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2)(A) and 31(a)(2)(A). Service of discovery upon a party, taken

pursuant to this Section, shall be sufficient if made through the means described in Section XI of this Order.

**X.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF ORDER BY DEFENDANT**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant shall immediately provide a copy of this Order to each of his corporations, subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, directors, officers, agents, partners, successors, assigns, employees, attorneys, agents, representatives, sales entities, sales persons, independent contractors, and any other persons in active concert or participation with him. Within ten (10) calendar days from the date of entry of this Order, Defendant shall serve on the Commission an affidavit identifying the name, title, address, telephone number, date of service, and manner of service of each person or entity Defendant served with a copy of this Order in compliance with this provision.

**XI.**

**SERVICE OF ORDER**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Order may be served by any means, including facsimile transmission, electronic mail, personal or overnight delivery, or by U.S. Mail, by agents and employees of the Commission, by any law enforcement agency, or by private process server, upon any person that may have possession or control of any document of Defendant, or that may be subject to any provision of this Order.

**XII.**

**CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, pursuant to Section 604(a)(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(a)(1), any consumer reporting agency may furnish a consumer or credit report concerning Defendant to the Commission.

**XIII.**

**CORRESPONDENCE WITH AND NOTICE TO PLAINTIFF**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, for purposes of this Order, all correspondence and pleadings to the Commission shall be addressed to:

William J. Hodor, Esq.  
Steven M. Wernikoff, Esq.  
Federal Trade Commission  
55 West Monroe Street, Suite 1825  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
(312) 960-5634 [Telephone]  
(312) 960-5600 [Facsimile]

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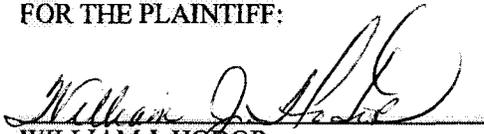
XIV.

RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

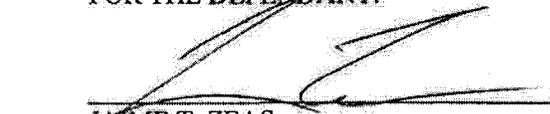
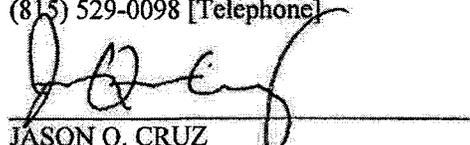
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter for all purposes.

STIPULATED AND AGREED TO BY:

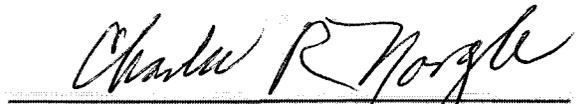
FOR THE PLAINTIFF:

  
WILLIAM J. HODOR  
*Attorney for Plaintiff*  
Federal Trade Commission  
55 West Monroe Street, Suite 1825  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
(312) 960-5592 [Telephone]  
(312) 960-5600 [Facsimile]

FOR THE DEFENDANT:

  
JAIME T. ZEAS  
*Attorney for Defendant*  
Jason Q. Cruz  
Law Offices of James T. Zeas, Esq.  
Box 812  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20918  
(815) 529-0098 [Telephone]  
  
JASON Q. CRUZ  
*Defendant*

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 19 day of March, 2013.

  
CHARLES NORGGLE, United States District Judge  
Northern District of Illinois