

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

COMMISSIONERS: **Joseph J. Simons, Chairman**
 Maureen K. Ohlhausen
 Noah Joshua Phillips
 Rohit Chopra
 Rebecca Kelly Slaughter

In the Matter of

CREAXION CORPORATION, a corporation,

**MARK PETTIT, individually and as an officer of
Creaxion Corporation,**

**INSIDE PUBLICATIONS, LLC OF GEORGIA, a
limited liability company, and**

**CHRISTOPHER KOROTKY, individually and as an
officer of Inside Publications, LLC of Georgia.**

**DECISION AND ORDER
AGAINST RESPONDENTS
INSIDE PUBLICATIONS, LLC
OF GEORGIA AND
CHRISTOPHER KOROTKY**

DOCKET NO. C-4669

DECISION

The Federal Trade Commission (“Commission”) initiated an investigation of certain acts and practices of the Respondents named in the caption. The Commission’s Bureau of Consumer Protection (“BCP”) prepared and furnished to Respondents 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 Respondents with violations of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

Respondents Inside Publications, LLC of Georgia and Christopher Korotky and BCP thereafter executed an Agreement Containing Consent Order (“Consent Agreement”). The Consent Agreement includes: 1) statements by Respondents Inside Publications, LLC of Georgia and Christopher Korotky that they neither admit nor deny any of the allegations in the Complaint, except as specifically stated in this Decision and Order, and that only for purposes of this action, they admit 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 Respondents have 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. 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 against Inside Publications, LLC of Georgia and Christopher Korotky:

Findings

1. The Respondents are:
 - a. Respondent Inside Publications, LLC of Georgia, a Georgia limited liability company with its principal office or place of business at 1050 Crown Pointe Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30338; and
 - b. Respondent Christopher Korotky, the sole owner and member of Inside Publications, LLC of Georgia. Individually or in concert with others, he controlled, or had the authority to control, or participated in, the acts and practices alleged in the Complaint. His principal office or place of business is the same as that of Inside Publications, LLC of Georgia.
2. The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding and over the Respondents, and the proceeding is in the public interest.

ORDER

Definitions

For purposes of this Order, the following definitions apply:

- A. “Clearly and conspicuously” means that a required disclosure is difficult to miss (i.e., easily noticeable) and easily understandable by ordinary consumers, including in all of the following ways:
 1. In any communication that is solely visual or solely audible, the disclosure must be made through the same means through which the communication is presented. In any communication made through both visual and audible means, such as a television advertisement, the disclosure must be presented simultaneously in both the visual and audible portions of the communication even if the representation requiring the disclosure (“triggering representation”) is made through only one means.
 2. A visual disclosure, by its size, contrast, location, the length of time it appears, and other characteristics, must stand out from any accompanying text or other visual elements so that it is easily noticed, read, and understood.

3. An audible disclosure, including by telephone or streaming video, must be delivered in a volume, speed, and cadence sufficient for ordinary consumers to easily hear and understand it.
 4. In any communication using an interactive electronic medium, such as the Internet or software, the disclosure must be unavoidable.
 5. On a product label, the disclosure must be presented on the principal display panel.
 6. The disclosure must use diction and syntax understandable to ordinary consumers and must appear in each language in which the triggering representation appears.
 7. The disclosure must comply with these requirements in each medium through which it is received, including all electronic devices and face-to-face communications.
 8. The disclosure must not be contradicted or mitigated by, or inconsistent with, anything else in the communication.
 9. When the representation or sales practice targets a specific audience, such as children, the elderly, or the terminally ill, “ordinary consumers” includes reasonable members of that group.
- B. “Close proximity” means that the disclosure is very near the triggering representation. For example, a disclosure made through a hyperlink, pop-up, interstitial, or other similar technique is not in close proximity to the triggering representation.
- C. “Including” means including but not limited to.
- D. “Respondents” means Inside Publications, LLC of Georgia and Christopher Korotky, individually or collectively.
1. “Corporate Respondent” means Inside Publications, LLC of Georgia, a limited liability company, and its successors and assigns.
 2. “Individual Respondent” means Christopher Korotky.
- E. “Unexpected material connection” means any relationship that might materially affect the weight or credibility of a testimonial or endorsement and that would not reasonably be expected by consumers.

Provisions

I. Prohibited Misrepresentations – Endorsements

IT IS ORDERED that Respondents, and Respondents’ 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 manufacturing, labeling, advertising, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of any product or service are prohibited from making, or assisting others in making, any misrepresentation, expressly or by implication, about the status of any endorser or person providing a review of the product or service, including a misrepresentation that the endorser or reviewer is an independent user or ordinary consumer of the product or service.

II. Required Disclosures – Endorsements

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondents, and Respondents’ 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 product or service are prohibited from making, or assisting others in making, any representation, expressly or by implication, about any consumer or other endorser of such product or service without disclosing, clearly and conspicuously, and in close proximity to that representation, any unexpected material connection between such endorser and (1) any Respondent or (2) any other individual or entity affiliated with the product or service.

III. Prohibited Misrepresentations – Deceptively Formatted Advertising

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondents, and Respondents’ 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 product or service are prohibited from making, or assisting others in making, any misrepresentation, in any manner, expressly or by implication, that paid commercial advertising is a statement or opinion from an independent or objective publisher or source.

IV. Monitoring of Endorsers

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondents, and Respondents’ 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 product or service by means of an endorsement by an endorser with a material connection to (1) any Respondent or (2) any other individual or entity affiliated with the product or service, must take steps sufficient to ensure compliance with Provisions I and II of this Order. Such steps shall include, at a minimum:

- A. Providing each such endorser with a clear statement of their responsibilities to disclose clearly and conspicuously, and in close proximity to the endorsement, in any print, radio, television, online, or digital advertisement or communication, the endorser’s unexpected material connection to any Respondent or any other individual or entity affiliated with the product or service, and obtaining from each such endorser a signed and dated statement acknowledging receipt of that statement and expressly agreeing to comply with it;
- B. Establishing, implementing, and thereafter maintaining a system to monitor and review the representations and disclosures of endorsers with material connections to any

Respondent or any other individual or entity affiliated with the product or service to ensure compliance with Provisions I and II of this Order. The system shall include, at a minimum, monitoring and reviewing the endorsers' print, radio, television, online or digital advertisement or communication;

- C. Immediately terminating and ceasing payment to any endorser with a material connection to any Respondent or any other individual or entity affiliated with the product or service who Respondents reasonably conclude:
 - 1. Has misrepresented, in any manner, their independence or impartiality; or
 - 2. Has failed to disclose, clearly and conspicuously, and in close proximity to the endorsement, an unexpected material connection between such endorser and any Respondent or any other individual or entity affiliated with the product or service.

Provided, however, that Respondents may provide an endorser with notice of failure to adequately disclose and an opportunity to cure the disclosure prior to terminating the endorsement relationship if Respondents reasonably conclude that the failure to adequately disclose was inadvertent. Respondents shall inform any endorser to whom they have provided a notice of a failure to adequately disclose an unexpected material connection that any subsequent failure to adequately disclose will result in immediate termination; and

- D. Creating reports showing the results of the monitoring required by this Provision.

V. Acknowledgments of the Order

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

- A. Each 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. Individual Respondent, for any business that such Respondent, individually or collectively with any other Respondents, is the majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, and Corporate 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 who participate in 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 a Respondent delivered a copy of this Order, that Respondent must obtain, within 30 days, a signed and dated acknowledgment of receipt of this Order.

VI. Compliance Reports and Notices

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

- A. Sixty days after the issuance date of this Order, each Respondent must submit a compliance report, sworn under penalty of perjury, in which:
 1. Each Respondent 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 that Respondent's businesses by all of their names, telephone numbers, and physical, postal, email, and Internet addresses; (c) describe the activities of each business, including the goods and services offered, the means of advertising, marketing, and sales, and the involvement of any other Respondent (which Individual Respondent must describe if he knows or should know due to his own involvement); (d) describe in detail whether and how that Respondent is in compliance with each Provision of this Order, including a discussion of all of the changes the 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.
 2. Additionally, Individual Respondent must: (a) identify all his telephone numbers and all his physical, postal, email and Internet addresses, including all residences; (b) identify all his business activities, including any business for which such Respondent performs services whether as an employee or otherwise and any entity in which such Respondent has any ownership interest and over which Respondents have direct or indirect control; and (c) describe in detail such Respondent's involvement in each such business activity, including title, role, responsibilities, participation, authority, control, and any ownership.
- B. For 10 years after the issuance date of this Order, each Respondent must submit a compliance notice, sworn under penalty of perjury, within 14 days of any change in the following:
 1. Each Respondent must submit notice of any change in: (a) any designated point of contact; or (b) the structure of any Corporate 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 dissolution of the entity or any subsidiary, parent, or affiliate that engages in any acts or practices subject to this Order.
 2. Additionally, Individual Respondent must submit notice of any change in: (a) name, including alias or fictitious name, or residence address; or (b) title or role in any business activity, including (i) any business for which such Respondent performs services whether as an employee or otherwise and (ii) any entity in which such

Respondent has any ownership interest and over which Respondents have direct or indirect control. For each such business activity, also identify its name, physical address, and any Internet address.

- C. Each Respondent must submit notice of the filing of any bankruptcy petition, insolvency proceeding, or similar proceeding by or against such Respondent within 14 days of its filing.
- D. Any submission to the Commission required by this Order to be sworn under penalty of perjury must be true and accurate and comply with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, such as by concluding: “I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on: _____” and supplying the date, signatory’s full name, title (if applicable), and signature.
- E. Unless otherwise directed by a Commission representative in writing, all submissions to the Commission pursuant to this Order must be emailed to DEbrief@ftc.gov or sent by overnight courier (not the U.S. Postal Service) to: Associate Director for Enforcement, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580. The subject line must begin: *In re Inside Publications LLC of Georgia, C-4669*.

VII. Recordkeeping

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondents must create certain records for 10 years after the issuance date of the Order, and retain each such record for 5 years, unless otherwise specified below. Specifically, Corporate Respondent and Individual Respondent for any business that such Respondent, individually or collectively with any other Respondents, is a majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, must create and retain the following records:

- A. Personnel records showing, for each person providing services in relation to any aspect of the Order, whether as an employee or otherwise, that person’s: name; addresses; telephone numbers; job title or position; dates of service; and (if applicable) the reason for termination;
- B. A copy of each unique advertisement or other marketing material making a representation subject to this Order; and
- C. All records necessary to demonstrate full compliance with each provision of this Order, including all submissions to the Commission.

VIII. Compliance Monitoring

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for the purpose of monitoring Respondents’ compliance with this Order:

- A. Within 10 days of receipt of a written request from a representative of the Commission,

each Respondent must: submit additional compliance reports or other requested information, which must be sworn under penalty of perjury, and produce records for inspection and copying.

- B. For matters concerning this Order, representatives of the Commission are authorized to communicate directly with each Respondent. Respondents must permit representatives of the Commission to interview anyone affiliated with any Respondent who has agreed to such an interview. The interviewee may have counsel present.
- C. The Commission may use all other lawful means, including posing through its representatives as consumers, suppliers, or other individuals or entities, to Respondents or any individual or entity affiliated with Respondents, without the necessity of identification or prior notice. Nothing in this Order limits the Commission's lawful use of compulsory process, pursuant to Sections 9 and 20 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 49, 57b-1.
- D. Upon written request from a representative of the Commission, any consumer reporting agency must furnish consumer reports concerning Individual Respondent, pursuant to Section 604(2) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(a)(2).

IX. Order Effective Dates

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order is final and effective upon the date of its publication on the Commission's website (ftc.gov) as a final order. This Order will terminate January 31, 2039, or 20 years from the most recent date that the United States or the Commission files a complaint (with or without an accompanying settlement) in federal court alleging any violation of this Order, whichever comes later; *provided, however*, that the filing of such a complaint will not affect the duration of:

- A. Any Provision in this Order that terminates in less than 20 years;
- B. This Order's application to any Respondent that is not named as a defendant in such complaint; and
- C. This Order if such complaint is filed after the Order has terminated pursuant to this Provision.

Provided, further, that if such complaint is dismissed or a federal court rules that the 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.

By the Commission.

April J. Tabor
Acting Secretary

SEAL:
ISSUED: January 31, 2019