# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

# FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

PANDA BENEFIT SERVICES, LLC, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 8:24-cv-01386-CAS-RAOx

DEFAULT JUDGMENT AND ORDER FOR PERMANENT INJUNCTION AS TO DEFENDANTS PUBLIC PROCESSING LLC, QUICK START SERVICES, LLC, AND SIGNATURE PROCESSING SERVICES, INC.

Plaintiff, the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"), commenced this civil action on June 24, 2024, pursuant to Sections 13(b) and 19 of the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 53(b) and 57b, Section 6(b) of the Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act ("Telemarketing Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 6105(b), and Section 522(a) of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act ("GLB Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 6822(a). (ECF No. 1.) On June 24, 2024, on motion by the FTC, the Court entered an ex parte temporary restraining order, asset freeze, appointment of a receiver, and other equitable relief against Defendants ("TRO"). (ECF No. 29.) On July 8, 2024, after a hearing on an order to show cause, the Court entered a Preliminary Injunction ("PI") against Defendants. (ECF No. 48.) On March 12, 2025, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55(a), the

Clerk of Court entered default against Defendants Public Processing Services LLC, 1 2 Quick Start Services, LLC, and Signature Processing Services, Inc. ("Defaulting 3 Defendants"). (ECF No. 84.) The FTC has now moved this Court for entry of a 4 judgment by default and permanent injunction, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil 5 Procedure 55(b)(2), against the Defaulting Defendants. The Court, having considered 6 7 the memoranda and exhibits filed in support of said motion, and all other pleadings 8 and files in this action, and now being fully advised in the premises, **GRANTS** the 9 FTC's motion and makes the following findings of law and fact.

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**FINDINGS** 

1. The FTC brings this action pursuant to Sections 13(b) and 19 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 53(b) and 57b, Section 6(b) of the Telemarketing Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6105(b), and Section 522(a) of the GLB Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6822(a). The FTC seeks both permanent injunctive and monetary relief for deceptive and unlawful acts and practices in violation of Section 5(a) of the FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), multiple provisions of the FTC's Telemarketing Sales Rule ("TSR"), 16 C.F.R. Part 310, Section 521 of the GLB Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6821, and the FTC's Trade Regulation Rule on Impersonation of Government and Businesses ("Impersonation Rule"), 16 C.F.R. Part 461, by the Defaulting Defendants in connection with the marketing and sale of student loan debt relief services.

- 2. The FTC has authority under Sections 13(b) and 19 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 53(b) and 57b, Section 6(b) of the Telemarketing Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6105(b), and Section 522(a) of the GLB Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6822(a), to seek the relief it has requested, and the Complaint states a claim upon which relief can be granted against the Default Defendants.
- 3. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and personal jurisdiction over the Defaulting Defendants pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337(a), and 1345, and 15 U.S.C. §§ 45(a), 53(b), 57b, 6105(b), and 6822(a). Venue in the Central District of California is proper under 15 U.S.C. § 53(b) and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c).
- 4. On June 26, 2024, Defendants Quick Start Services, LLC and Signature Processing Services, Inc. were properly served with a copy of the Complaint and Summons. (ECF Nos. 39, 41.)
- 5. On June 27, 2024, Defendant Public Processing Services LLC was properly served with a copy of the Complaint and Summons. (ECF No. 38.)
- 6. The time within which the Defaulting Defendants could answer, plead, or otherwise defend against the Complaint has expired.
- 7. The time for the Defaulting Defendants to answer, plead, or otherwise defend against the Complaint has not been extended.
- 8. The Court is not aware that any Defaulting Defendant has filed for bankruptcy.

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to the Complaint.

10. The Clerk of Court entered the Defaulting Defendants' default on March 12,

2025. (ECF No. 84.)

9. None of the Defaulting Defendants have filed an answer or otherwise responded

- 11. Because of the Defaulting Defendants' default, the allegations in the Complaint filed in this action are taken as true.
- 12. The FTC is an agency of the United States Government created by the FTC Act, which authorizes the FTC to commence this district court civil action by its own attorneys. 15 U.S.C. §§ 41-58. The FTC enforces Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), which prohibits unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce. The FTC also enforces the Telemarketing Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 6101-6108. Pursuant to the Telemarketing Act, the FTC promulgated and enforces the TSR, 16 C.F.R. Part 310, which prohibits deceptive and abusive telemarketing acts or practices in or affecting commerce. The FTC also enforces the GLB Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 6821-27, which prohibits any person from obtaining or attempting to obtain customer information of a financial institution relating to another person by making a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation to a customer of a financial institution. The FTC also enforces the Impersonation Rule, 16 C.F.R. Part 461, which prohibits the impersonation of the government and businesses.

- 13.Defendant Public Processing Services LLC is a Nevada limited liability company with a principal place of business at 501 S Rancho Dr. Suite D20 PMB 1043, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Public Processing Services transacts or has transacted business in this district and throughout the United States. At all times relevant to the Complaint, acting alone or in concert with others, Public Processing Services has advertised, marketed, distributed, or sold student loan debt relief services to consumers throughout the United States.
- 14.Defendant Quick Start Services, LLC is a California limited liability company with a principal place of business at 6 Centerpointe Drive, Suite 700, La Palma, CA 90623. Quick Start Services transacts or has transacted business in this district and throughout the United States. At all times relevant to the Complaint, acting alone or in concert with others, Quick Start Services has advertised, marketed, distributed, or sold student loan debt relief services to consumers throughout the United States.
- 15.Defendant Signature Processing Services, Inc. is a Nevada corporation with a principal place of business at 3753 Howard Hughes Parkway Suite 200 #1221, Las Vegas, NV 89169. Signature Processing Services transacts or has transacted business in this district and throughout the United States. At all times relevant to the Complaint, acting alone or in concert with others,

- Signature Processing Services has advertised, marketed, distributed, or sold student loan debt relief services to consumers throughout the United States.
- 16. The Defaulting Defendants, together with the other corporate Defendants, have operated as a common enterprise while engaging in the unlawful acts and practices described below. They have conducted the business practices described in the Complaint through an interrelated network of companies that have common ownership, officers, business functions, employees, managers, and office locations, and that commingled funds. Because they have operated as a common enterprise, each Defaulting Defendant is liable for the acts and practices described below.
- 17.At all times relevant to the Complaint, the Defaulting Defendants have maintained a substantial course of trade in or affecting commerce, as "commerce" is defined in Section 4 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 44.
- 18.Defendants have deceived consumers, many of whom were low-income borrowers saddled with thousands of dollars of student debt, into paying hundreds of dollars for services that are made up, not as described, or simply never materialize. Defendants told consumers that (1) Defendants would secure forgiveness of their student loan debt; (2) Defendants could obtain for consumers repayment plans that would lower their monthly payment amounts;
  - (3) Defendants were loan servicers who would take over servicing their federal

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student loans; and (4) Defendants "worked with" or were otherwise affiliated with the government, including specifically the U.S. Department of Education ("ED"). But Defendants' promises were false. Defendants did not seek or deliver loan forgiveness or loan repayment plans. Defendants were not federal loan servicers and did not work with the Department of Education. Consumers have paid significant sums to Defendants only to find that Defendants were not affiliated with the government, and have not sought or obtained forgiveness of their loans, enrolled them in payment plans that reduced their monthly obligation, or taken over servicing their loans. When consumers realized they were duped and asked for a refund, Defendants often refused to make them whole.

19. In numerous instances in connection with the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, or sale of student loan debt relief services, Defendants represented, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, that a) consumers who paid for Defendants' program were guaranteed to receive loan forgiveness; b) consumers who paid for Defendants' program would have their loan repayment amounts reduced; c) Defendants would assume responsibility for the servicing of consumers' student loans; and d) Defendants were affiliated with the federal government, including specifically ED. In fact, in numerous instances in which Defendants have made these representations,

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such representations were false or unsubstantiated at the time Defendants made them. Therefore, these representations are false or misleading and constitute deceptive acts or practices in violation of Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a). Accordingly, the Defaulting Defendants have violated Section 5 of the FTC Act as alleged in Count I of the Complaint.

- 20. In numerous instances, Defendants have, in connection with the telemarketing of student loan debt relief services, misrepresented, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, material aspects of their debt relief services, including, but not limited to, that a) consumers who paid for Defendants' program were guaranteed to receive loan forgiveness; b) consumers who paid for Defendants' program would have their loan repayment amounts reduced; c) Defendants would assume responsibility for the servicing of consumers' student loans; and d) Defendants were affiliated with the federal government, including specifically ED. These acts or practices are deceptive telemarketing acts and practices that violate Section 310.3(a)(2)(x) of the TSR, 16 C.F.R. § 310.3(a)(2)(x). Accordingly, the Defaulting Defendants have violated Section 310.3(a)(2)(x) of the TSR as alleged in Count II of the Complaint.
- 21. In numerous instances, Defendants have, in connection with the telemarketing of student loan debt relief services, requested or received payment of a fee or consideration for debt relief services before: a) Defendants have renegotiated,

settled, reduced, or otherwise altered the terms of at least one debt pursuant to a settlement agreement, debt management plan, or other such valid contractual agreement executed by the customer; and (b) the customer has made at least one payment pursuant to that settlement agreement, debt management plan, or other valid contractual agreement between the customer and the creditor. These acts or practices are abusive telemarketing acts and practices that violate Section 310.4(a)(5)(i) of the TSR, 16 C.F.R. § 310.4(a)(5)(i). Accordingly, the Defaulting Defendants have violated Section 310.4(a)(5)(i) of the TSR as alleged in Count III of the Complaint.

22.In numerous instances in connection with the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, or sale of student loan debt relief services, Defendants have made false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations to customers of financial institutions to obtain or attempt to obtain customer information of a financial institution, such as credit or debit card numbers, bank account numbers, and routing numbers, including by representing, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, that: a) consumers who paid for Defendants' program were guaranteed to receive loan forgiveness; b) consumers who paid for Defendants program would have their loan repayment amounts reduced; c) Defendants would assume responsibility for the servicing of consumers' student loans; and d) Defendants were affiliated

with the federal government, including specifically ED. These acts and practices violate Section 521(a) of the GLB Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6821(a). Accordingly, the Defaulting Defendants have violated Section 521(a) of the GLB Act as alleged in Count IV of the Complaint.

- 23. In numerous instances on or after April 1, 2024, in connection with the advertising, marketing, promotion, offering for sale, or sale of student loan debt relief services, Defendants have materially misrepresented, directly or by implication, that they were affiliated with the federal government, including specifically ED. These representations violate Section 461.2(b) of the Impersonation Rule, 16 C.F.R. § 461.2(b). Accordingly, the Defaulting Defendants have violated Section 461.2(b) of the Impersonation Rule as alleged in Count V of the Complaint.
- 24.A court's decision to enter default judgments typically turns on seven factors:

  (1) the possibility of prejudice to the plaintiff; (2) the merits of the claims; (3) the sufficiency of the complaint; (4) the amount of money at stake; (5) the possibility of a dispute concerning material facts; (6) whether default was due to excusable neglect; and (7) the policy favoring a decision on the merits. *Eitel v. McCool*, 782 F.2d 1470, 1471-72 (9th Cir. 1986). Here, the *Eitel* factors support entry of a default judgment. Regarding the first factor, the FTC will be prejudiced without a default judgment because there is no other way to litigate

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its claims against the Defaulting Defendants who have failed to answer or otherwise respond to the FTC's Complaint. With respect to the second and third factors, the FTC's Complaint clearly states the grounds entitling the FTC to injunctive and monetary relief pursuant to Sections 13(b) and 19 of the FTC Act. Moreover, the FTC's case has merit. Accepting that the factual allegations of the Complaint are taken as true, not to mention the considerable evidence presented by the FTC in support of its motion for temporary restraining order, the FTC has established that the Defaulting Defendants, acting in common enterprise with the other Defendants, engaged in unlawful practices in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, the TSR, Section 521 of the GLB Act, and the Impersonation Rule. Regarding the fourth *Eitel* factor, the amount of money at stake, the FTC seeks a monetary judgment against the Defaulting Defendants in the amount of \$16,787,028, representing the overall harm to consumers calculated from net revenue. This figure is entirely commensurate with the gravity of the Defaulting Defendants' violations while also considering their roles in the scheme. The fifth *Eitel* factor, the possibility of a dispute concerning material facts, also weighs in favor of default judgment. None of the Defaulting Defendants have entered an appearance or made any formal filing disputing any of the FTC's allegations, nor have any of the Defaulting Defendants challenged the Clerk's entry of default. Accordingly,

there is no genuine dispute of material fact that precludes default judgment. The possibility that default was due to excusable neglect, the sixth *Eitel* factor, is remote. Despite having had ample time and opportunity to make an appearance, the Defaulting Defendants have failed to defend against this action and to date have provided no reasons for their failure to defend. Thus, their default is not due to excusable neglect. Finally, although the seventh *Eitel* factor expresses a general preference for decisions on the merits, where it is impossible to adjudicate an action on the merits because a defendant refuses to participate in litigation, the strong policy favoring decisions on the merits is outweighed by the need to finalize controversies in a timely and orderly fashion as well as by the public policy favoring judicial economy. Accordingly, the seventh *Eitel* factor does not preclude entry of default judgment.

- 25. Section 13(b) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 53(b), authorizes this Court to grant injunctive relief as the Court may deem appropriate to halt violations of any provision of law enforced by the FTC.
- 26.Consumers have suffered and will continue to suffer substantial injury as a result of the Defaulting Defendants' violations of Section 5 of the FTC Act, the TSR, Section 521 of the GLB Act, and the Impersonation Rule. The Court finds that, absent a permanent injunction, the Defaulting Defendants are likely to continue to engage in the activities alleged in the Complaint.

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27. The Court is persuaded that the danger of future violations by the Defaulting Defendants justifies the issuance of permanent injunctive relief. Specifically, it is proper in this case to issue a permanent injunction that: (a) prohibits the Defaulting Defendants from marketing or selling secured or unsecured debt relief products or services; (b) prohibits the Defaulting Defendants from engaging in telemarketing; (c) prohibits the Defaulting Defendants from using false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements to obtain or attempt to obtain customer information of a financial institution; (d) prohibits the Defaulting Defendants from impersonating or falsely representing affiliation with any government entity or business; (e) provides other reasonable fencing-in relief; and (f) provides such other ancillary relief as is necessary to assist the FTC and the Court in monitoring the Defaulting Defendants' compliance with such a permanent injunction.

28. Section 19 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 57b, and Section 522(a) of the GLB Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6822(a), authorize this Court to grant such relief as the Court finds necessary to redress injury to consumers resulting from the Defaulting Defendants' violations of the TSR, Section 521 of the GLB Act, and the Impersonation Rule, including but not limited to refund of money or return of property.

- 29.No hearing is necessary for the Court to make a determination with respect to monetary relief, as such relief is established through undisputed evidence already submitted to the Court. That evidence demonstrates that the Defaulting Defendants have caused \$16,787,028 in consumer harm from their violations of the TSR, Section 521 of the GLB Act, and the Impersonation Rule, in the three years prior to the FTC's filing of the Complaint.
- 30.It is proper in this case to enter a monetary judgment, pursuant to Section 19 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 57b, against the Defaulting Defendants to redress consumer injury caused by the Defaulting Defendants' violations of the TSR, Section 521 of the GLB Act, and the Impersonation Rule. The FTC is entitled to judgment against the Defaulting Defendants in the amount of \$16,787,028.
- 31.It is proper in this case to continue the receivership over the Defaulting Defendants.
- 32. This action and the relief awarded herein are in addition to, and not in lieu of, other remedies as may be provided by law, including both civil and criminal remedies.
- 33. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d), the provisions of this Order are binding upon each Defaulting Defendant, their successors and assigns, and their officers, agents, employees, and attorneys, and upon those persons or

entities in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise.

34. Entry of this Order is in the public interest.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. "Clearly and Conspicuously" means that a required disclosure is easily noticeable (*i.e.*, difficult to miss) 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 is made in 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. The disclosure must use diction and syntax understandable to ordinary consumers and must appear in each language in which the representation that requires the disclosure appears.
- 6. The disclosure must comply with these requirements in each medium through which it is received, including all electronic devices and face-to-face communications.
- 7. The disclosure must not be contradicted or mitigated by, or inconsistent with, anything else in the communication.
- 8. 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. "Consumer" means any Person.
- C. "Defaulting Defendants" means Public Processing Services, LLC, Quick Start Services, LLC, and Signature Processing Services, Inc., and each of their subsidiaries, affiliates, successors, and assigns, individually, collectively, or in

D. "Defendants" means Panda Benefit Services, LLC, Clarity Support Services,

- LLC, Pacific Quest Services, Prosperity Loan Services, LLC, Public Processing Services, LLC, Quick Start Services, LLC, Select Student Services, LLC, Signature Processing Services, Inc., Eduardo Avalos Martinez, Emiliano Salinas, Christopher Michael Hanson, and Melissa Salinas, individually, collectively, or in any combination.
- E. "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.
- F. "Receiver" means Thomas W. McNamara.
- G. "Receivership Entity" means the Defaulting Defendants, as well as any other entity that has conducted any business related to Defendants' student loan debt relief services business, including receipt of assets derived from any actitivty that is the subject of the Complaint in this matter, and which the Receiver has reason to believe is owned or controlled in whole or in party by any Defaulting Defendant.
- H. "Secured or Unsecured Debt Relief Product or Service" means:

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- 1. With respect to any mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation between a person and one or more secured or unsecured creditors or debt collectors, any product, service, plan, or program represented, expressly or by implication, to:
  - a. stop, prevent, or postpone any mortgage or deed of foreclosure sale for a person's dwelling, any other sale of collateral, any repossession of a person's dwelling or other collateral, or otherwise save a person's dwelling or other collateral from foreclosure or repossession;
  - b. negotiate, obtain, or arrange a modification, or renegotiate, settle, reduce, or in any way alter any terms of the mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation, including a reduction in the amount of interest, principal balance, monthly payments, or fees owed by a person to a secured or unsecured creditor or debt collector;
  - c. obtain any forbearance or modification in the timing of payments from any secured or unsecured holder or servicer of any mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation;
  - d. negotiate, obtain, or arrange any extension of the period of time within which a person may (i) cure his or her default on the mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation, (ii) reinstate his or her mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation, (iii) redeem a dwelling or other collateral, or (iv) exercise any

- right to reinstate the mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation or redeem a dwelling or other collateral;
- e. obtain any waiver of an acceleration clause or balloon payment contained in any promissory note or contract secured by any dwelling or other collateral; or
- f. negotiate, obtain, or arrange (i) a short sale of a dwelling or other collateral, (ii) a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure, or (iii) any other disposition of a mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation other than a sale to a third party that is not the secured or unsecured loan holder;

The foregoing shall include any manner of claimed assistance, including auditing or examining a person's application for the mortgage, loan, debt, or obligation.

- 2. With respect to any loan, debt, or obligation between a person and one or more unsecured creditors or debt collectors, any product, service, plan, or program represented, expressly or by implication, to:
  - a. repay one or more unsecured loans, debts, or obligations; or
  - b. combine unsecured loans, debts, or obligations into one or more new loans, debts, or obligations
- I. "Telemarketing" means any plan, program, or campaign which is conducted to induce the purchase of goods or services or a charitable contribution, by use of

call.

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one or more telephones, and which involves more than one interstate telephone call.

#### **ORDER**

# BAN ON SECURED AND UNSECURED DEBT RELIEF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- **I. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Defaulting Defendants, whether acting directly or indirectly, are permanently restrained and enjoined from:
  - A. Advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, or selling any Secured or Unsecured Debt Relief Product or Service; and
  - B. Assisting others in the advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, or selling any Secured or Unsecured Debt Relief Product or Service.

#### **BAN ON TELEMARKETING**

II. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defaulting Defendants, whether acting directly or indirectly, are permanently restrained and enjoined from participating in Telemarketing, including, but not limited to, by consulting, brokering, planning, investing, or advising others regarding Telemarketing.

# PROHIBITED BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

III. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defaulting Defendants, Defaulting

Defendants' 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 advertising,

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marketing, promoting, distributing, servicing, offering, or selling any product or service, are permanently restrained and enjoined from engaging in, or assisting others engaged in, the following:

# A. Misrepresenting, expressly or by implication:

- 1. Any material aspect of the nature or terms of any refund, cancellation, exchange, or repurchase policy, including the likelihood of a consumer obtaining a full or partial refund, or the circumstances in which a full or partial refund will be granted to the Consumer;
- 2. The nature, expertise, position, or job title of any Person who provides any product, service, plan, or program;
- 3. The ability to improve or otherwise affect a Consumer's credit record, credit history, credit rating, or ability to obtain credit, including that a Consumer's credit record, credit history, credit rating, or ability to obtain credit can be improved by permanently removing negative information from the Consumer's credit record or history even where such information is accurate and not obsolete;
- 4. That a Consumer will save money;
- 5. Any benefit of such product or service;
- 6. Any requirements for obtaining such product or service;

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- 7. The existence, amount, or timing of any fees or charges, or the total cost to purchase, receive, or use such product or service; or
- 8. Any other fact material to Consumers concerning any product or service, such as: any material restrictions, limitations, or conditions to purchase, receive, or use such product or service; or any material aspect of the performance, efficacy, nature, or central characteristics of such product or service.
- B. Failing to disclose Clearly and Conspicuously the fact, if true, that a Consumer must activate, request, initiate, or otherwise take some affirmative action in order to receive or use such product or service; or
- C. Making any representation, expressly or by implication, about the benefits, performance, or efficacy of any product or service, unless the representation is non-misleading, including that, at the time such representation is made, such Defaulting Defendant possesses and relies upon competent and reliable evidence that is sufficient in quality and quantity based on standards generally accepted in the relevant fields, when considered in light of the entire body of relevant and reliable evidence, to substantiate that the representation is true.

# INJUNCTION RELATING TO IMPERSONATING ANY GOVERNMENT **ENTITY OR PERSON**

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Defendants' 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 marketing, promoting, distributing, servicing, offering, or selling any product or service, are hereby permanently restrained and enjoined from:

- A. Misrepresenting or assisting others in misrepresenting, expressly or by implication, that any Person is affiliated with, endorsed, sponsored by, or approved by, or otherwise connected to any other Person; government entity; public, non-profit, or other non-commercial program; or any other program; or
- B. Violating the FTC's Impersonation Rule, 16 C.F.R. Part 461, a copy of which is attached.

# INJUNCTION RELATING TO CONSUMER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

V. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defaulting Defendants, Defaulting Defendants' 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, are hereby permanently restrained and enjoined from:

- A. Making any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation to any Person to obtain or attempt to obtain information of a Consumer, including, but not limited to, credit or debit card numbers, bank account numbers and routing numbers, and consumer credit reports; or
- B. Violating the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 6801-6809, §§ 6821-6827, a copy of which is attached.

## CONTINUATION OF RECEIVERSHIP

VI. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Thomas McNamara, Esq., shall continue as a permanent receiver over the Receivership Entities with full powers of a permanent receiver, including but not limited to those powers set forth in the Preliminary Injunction entered on July 8, 2024 (ECF No. 48), and including full liquidation powers. The Receiver is directed to wind up the Receivership Entities and liquidate all assets within 365 days after entry of this Order. Any party or the Receiver may request that the Court extend the Receiver's term for good cause. Upon termination of the receivership and final payment to the Receiver of all approved fees, costs, and expenses, the Receiver shall turn over to the FTC or its designated agent all remaining assets in the receivership estate.

#### MONETARY JUDGMENT

## VII. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

A. Judgment in the amount of SIXTEEN MILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED

AND EIGHTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, AND TWENTY-EIGHT Dollars (\$16,787,028) is entered in favor of the FTC against Defaulting Defendants, jointly and severally with any other Defendant against whom judgment may be entered, as monetary relief pursuant to Section 19 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 57b, for Defaulting Defendants' violations of the TSR, the Impersonation Rule, and Section 521(a) of the GLB Act.

- B. The monetary judgment set forth in Section VII.A is enforceable against any asset, real or personal, whether located within the United States or outside the United States, owned jointly or singly by, on behalf of, for the benefit of, in trust by or for, or as a deposit for future goods or services to be provided to, any Defaulting Defendant, whether held as tenants in common, joint tenants with or without the right of survivorship, tenants by the entirety, and/or community property.
- C. In partial satisfaction of the judgment set forth in Section VII.A, any

  Defendant, financial institution, or any other Person, whether located with
  the United States or outside the United States, that holds, controls, or
  maintains assets or accounts in the name of, on behalf of, for the benefit of,
  in trust by or for, or as a deposit for future goods or services to be provided
  to, any Receivership Entity shall, within ten (10) business days of receipt of

a copy of this Order, transfer to the Receiver or his designated agent such account or asset, including, but not limited to:

- JP Morgan Chase Bank shall, within 10 business days of receipt of a copy of this Order, transfer to the Receiver all funds, if any, in (a) account number xxxx2868 in the name of Public Processing Services;
   (b) account number xxxx2098 in the name of Quick Start Services; (c) account number xxxx2106 in the name of Quick Start Services; and
   (d) account number xxxx8850 in the name of Signature Processing Services;
- 2. Payment Automation Network/Unity FI Solutions shall, within 10 business day of receipt of a copy of this order, transfer to the Receiver all funds, if any, associated with any client ID associated with Public Processing Services, Quick Start Services, and Signature Processing Services;
- 3. Coinbase shall, within 10 business days of receipt of a copy of this Order, liquidate, and transfer the proceeds of such liquidation to the Receiver, all cryptocurrency held in the names of Public Processing Services, Quick Start Services, and Signature Processing Services.
- D. The asset freeze is modified to permit the transfers and liquidations identified in this Section.

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- E. Defaulting Defendants relinquish dominion and all legal and equitable right, title, and interest in all assets transferred pursuant to this Order and may not seek the return of any assets.
- F. All money received by the FTC pursuant to this Order may be deposited into a fund administered by the FTC or its designee to be used for consumer relief, such as redress and any attendant expenses for the administration of any redress fund. If a representative of the FTC decides that direct redress to consumers is wholly or partially impracticable or money remains after such redress is completed, the FTC may apply any remaining money for such related relief (including consumer information remedies) as it determines to be reasonably related to Defendants' practices alleged in the Complaint. Defaulting Defendants have no right to challenge any actions the FTC or its representatives may take pursuant to this Subsection.

## **CUSTOMER INFORMATION**

- VIII. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defaulting Defendants, Defaulting Defendants' 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 are permanently restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly:
  - A. Failing to provide sufficient customer information to enable the FTC to efficiently administer consumer redress. If a representative of the FTC

- requests in writing any information related to redress, Defaulting Defendants must provide it, in the form prescribed by the FTC, within 14 days;
- B. Disclosing, using, or benefitting from customer information, including the name, address, telephone number, email address, social security number, FSA ID, other identifying information, or any data that enables access to a customer's account (including a credit card, bank account, or other financial account), that Defaulting Defendants obtained prior to entry of this Order in connection with the marketing and sale of Secured and Unsecured Debt Relief Services; and
- C. Failing to destroy such customer information in all forms in their possession, custody, or control within 30 days after receipt of written direction to do so from a representative of the FTC.
- D. Provided, however, that customer information need not be disposed of, and may be disclosed, to the extent requested by a government agency or required by law, regulation, or court order.

### **ORDER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

- IX. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defaulting Defendants obtain acknowledgments of receipt of this Order:
  - A. Each Defaulting Defendant, within 7 days of entry of this Order, must submit to the FTC an acknowledgment of receipt of this Order sworn under

penalty of perjury.

- B. For 5 years after entry of this Order, each Defaulting Defendant must deliver a copy of this Order to: (1) all principals, officers, directors, and LLC managers and members; (2) all employees having managerial responsibilities for conduct specified in Sections I–V and all agents and representatives who participate in conduct specified in Sections I–V; and (3) any business entity resulting from any change in structure as set forth in the Section titled Compliance Reporting. Delivery must occur within 7 days of entry 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 Defaulting Defendant delivered a copy of this Order, such Defaulting Defendant must obtain, within 30 days, a signed and dated acknowledgment of receipt of this Order.

### **COMPLIANCE REPORTING**

- X. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each Defaulting Defendant make timely submissions to the FTC:
  - A. One year after entry of this Order, each Defaulting Defendant must submit a compliance report, sworn under penalty of perjury. Each Defaulting Defendant must: (1) identify the primary physical, postal, and email address and telephone number, as designated points of contact, which representatives

of the FTC may use to communicate with such Defaulting Defendant; (2) identify all of such Defaulting Defendant's businesses by all of their names, telephone numbers, and physical, postal, email, and Internet addresses; (3) 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 Defendant; (4) describe in detail whether and how such Defaulting Defendant is in compliance with each Section of this Order; and (5) provide a copy of each Order Acknowledgment obtained pursuant to this Order, unless previously submitted to the FTC.

- B. For 15 years after entry of this Order, each Defaulting Defendant must submit a compliance notice, sworn under penalty of perjury, within 14 days of any change in the following: (1) any designated point of contact; or (2) the structure of Defaulting Defendant or any entity that such Defaulting Defendant 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.
- C. Each Defaulting Defendant must submit to the FTC notice of the filing of any bankruptcy petition, insolvency proceeding, or similar proceeding by or against such Defaulting Defendant within 14 days of its filing.

- D. Any submission to the FTC 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 FTC representative in writing, all submissions to the FTC 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: FTC v. Panda Benefit Services, LLC, Matter No. X240039.

### RECORDKEEPING

XI. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each Defaulting Defendant must create certain records for 15 years after entry of the Order, and retain each such record for 5 years. Specifically, each Defaulting Defendant must create and retain the following records:

A. accounting records showing the revenues from all goods or services sold;

- B. personnel records showing, for each person providing services, 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;
- C. records of all consumer complaints and refund requests, whether received directly or indirectly, such as through a third party, and any response;
- D. all records necessary to demonstrate full compliance with each provision of this Order, including all submissions to the FTC; and
- E. a copy of each unique advertisement or other marketing material.

### **COMPLIANCE MONITORING**

- Defendants' compliance with this Order, including any failure to transfer any assets as required by this Order:
  - A. Within 14 days of receipt of a written request from a representative of the FTC, each Defaulting Defendant must: submit additional compliance reports or other requested information, which must be sworn under penalty of perjury; appear for depositions; and produce documents for inspection and copying. The FTC is also authorized to obtain discovery, without further leave of court, using any of the procedures prescribed by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 29, 30 (including depositions by remote means),

- B. For matters concerning this Order, the FTC is authorized to communicate directly with Defaulting Defendants. Defaulting Defendants must permit representatives of the FTC to interview any employee or other person affiliated with Defaulting Defendants who has agreed to such an interview. The person interviewed may have counsel present.
- C. The FTC may use all other lawful means, including posing, through its representatives as consumers, suppliers, or other individuals or entities, to Defaulting Defendants or any individual or entity affiliated with Defaulting Defendants, without the necessity of identification or prior notice. Nothing in this Order limits the FTC'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 FTC, any consumer reporting agency must furnish consumer reports concerning Defaulting
   Defendant, pursuant to Section 604(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15
   U.S.C. §1681b(a)(1).

#### **RETENTION OF JURISDICTION**

24 III. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Court retains jurisdiction of this matter 25 // 26 //

for purposes of construction, modification, and enforcement of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 6, 2025

CHRISTINA A. SNYDFR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE