1 2 3 4 5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 6 **DISTRICT OF ARIZONA** 7 8 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 9 Plaintiff, No. CV <u>11-0390-PHX-JAT</u> 10 11 v. STIPULATED FINAL JUDGMENT 12 BUSINESS RECOVERY SERVICES, LLC AND ORDER FOR PERMANENT 13 a limited liability company, and INJUNCTION AND OTHER **EQUITABLE RELIEF BETWEEN** 14 BRIAN HESSLER, PLAINTIFF AND DEFENDANT Individually and as owner, officer, or **HESSLER** 15 manager of Business Recovery 16 Services, LLC, 17 Defendants. 18 19 WHEREAS, Plaintiff, the United States of America, has filed a Complaint for 20 21 Injunctive and Other Equitable Relief ("Complaint") against Business Recovery Services, 22 LLC, and Brian Hessler in connection with the offering for sale and sale of recovery 23 24 25 26 1 27 28

goods and services. The Plaintiff and Defendant Brian Hessler¹ ("Defendant Hessler") have agreed to settlement of this action upon the following terms and conditions,² without adjudication of any issue of fact or law;

THEREFORE, on the joint motion of Plaintiff and Defendant Hessler, **IT IS**

THEREFORE STIPULATED, AGREED, AND ORDERED as follows:

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case and jurisdiction over all parties pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337(a), 1345, and 1355, and 15 U.S.C. §§ 45(m)(1)(A), 53(b), 56(a), and 57b.;
- 2. Venue in the District of Arizona is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)-(c) and 1395(a), and 15 U.S.C. § 53(b);
- 3. The acts and practices of Defendants were and are in or affecting commerce, as defined in Section 4 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 44;
- 4. The Complaint states a claim upon which relief can be granted under Sections 5(a), 5(m)(1)(A), 13(b), 16(a), and 19 of the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 45(a), 45(m)(1)(A), 53(b), 56(a), and 57b, and Section

¹ Defendant Business Recovery Services is not represented by counsel at this time.

² On March 8, 2010, the Court granted the Government's Motion for Attorneys' Fees (see Doc. #155), and ordered Defendants Brian Hessler and Business Recovery Services to pay \$33,064.87, which represented the expenses incurred by the Government as a result of Defendants' contempt. That award is not impacted by this Consent Decree, and must be satisfied by Defendants.

6 of the Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act (the
"Telemarketing Act"),15 U.S.C. § 6105, and the Federal Trade Commission's
Telemarketing Sales Rule (the "TSR" or the "Rule"), 16 C.F.R. Part 310, as
amended, and the Plaintiff has the authority to seek the relief it has requested;

- 5. Defendant Hessler has entered into this Order freely and without coercion, and
 Defendant Hessler acknowledges that he has read the provisions of this Order and
 is prepared to abide by them;
- 6. Plaintiff and Defendant Hessler stipulate and agree that the entry of this Order shall constitute a full, complete, and final settlement of this action;
- 7. Defendant Hessler waives all rights to seek judicial review or otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this Order;
- 8. Defendant Hessler has agreed that this Order does not entitle Defendant Hessler to seek or to obtain attorneys' fees as a prevailing party under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and Defendant Hessler further waives any rights to attorneys' fees that may arise under said provision of law;
- 9. This Order is remedial in nature and shall not be deemed or construed as a fine, damages, penalty, or punitive assessment; and
- 10. Entry of this Order is in the public interest.

ORDER

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

- A. "And" and "or" shall be understood to have both conjunctive and disjunctive meanings.
- B. "Asset" means any legal or equitable interest in, right to, or claim to, any real, personal, or intellectual property including, but not limited to, chattel, goods, instruments, equipment, fixtures, general intangibles, effects, leaseholds, contracts, mail or other deliveries, shares or stock, securities, inventory, checks, notes, accounts, credits, receivables (as those items are defined in the Uniform Commercial Code), lists of consumer names, accounts, credits, premises, cash, trusts, including but not limited to asset protection trusts, and reserve funds or other accounts associated with any payments processed on behalf of any Defendant, including but not limited to reserve funds held by a payment processor, credit card processor, or bank.
- C. "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) developing or providing or arranging for the development or provision of sales scripts and other marketing materials; (c) providing names of, or arranging for the provision of names, of potential customers; (d) performing

marketing services of any kind; or (e) providing any other service to a third party that could result in payment such as a salary, fee, or commission, whether or not there is an employment relationship between Defendant Hessler and third parties.

- D. "Corporate Defendant" means Business Recovery Services, LLC, also doing business as Home Based Business Consulting Services, and their successors and assigns.
- E. "Defendants" means the Defendant Hessler and the Corporate Defendant, individually, collectively, or in any combination.
- F. "Defendant Hessler" means Brian Hessler.
- G. "Material" means likely to affect a person's choice of, or conduct regarding, goods or services.
- H. "**Person**" means any individual, group, unincorporated association, limited or general partnership, corporation, or other business entity.
- I. "Recovery Goods and Services" means any business activity represented to recover or otherwise assist in the return of money or any other item of value paid for by, or promised to, a person in a previous transaction.
- J. "Telemarketing" means a plan, program, or campaign which is conducted to induce the purchase of goods or services or a charitable contribution, by use of one or more telephones and which involves more than one interstate telephone call.

PERMANENT BAN ON THE SALE OF RECOVERY GOODS AND SERVICES

I. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendant Hessler, whether acting directly or through any person, business entity, trust, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, subsidiary, division, website, or other device, is hereby permanently restrained and enjoined from selling recovery goods and services, or assisting others engaged in the sale of recovery goods and services.

PROHIBITION AGAINST MAKING MISREPRESENTATIONS RELATING TO ANY GOOD OR SERVICE

- II. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant Hessler and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and all other persons or entities in active concert or participation with him who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with the advertising, promoting, marketing, offering for sale, selling, or distributing of any good or service are hereby permanently restrained and enjoined from misrepresenting, or assisting others in misrepresenting, expressly or by implication, any material fact, including but not limited to:
- A. Any material aspect of the performance, efficacy, nature, or central characteristics of the good or service;

- B. Any material aspect of the nature or terms of any refund, cancellation, exchange, or repurchase policy for the goods and services;
- C. That Defendants or any other person is affiliated with, endorsed or approved by, or otherwise connected to any other person; government entity; public; non-profit, or other non-commercial program; or any other program;
- D. The total cost to purchase, receive, or use the goods or services;
- E. Falsely representing, in any manner, directly or by implication, any fact material to a consumer's decision (1) to purchase any item, product, good, service, or interest of any kind; (2) to donate to charity; or (3) to enter a contest for a prize; and
- F. Making a false or misleading statement to induce any person to pay for goods or services.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION

III. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant Hessler and his agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and all other persons or entities in active concert or participation with him who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, are permanently restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly:

- A. Failing to provide sufficient customer information to enable the Commission to efficiently administer consumer redress. If a representative of the Commission requests in writing any information related to redress, Defendant Hessler must provide it, in the form prescribed by the Commission, within 14 days.
- B. Disclosing, using, or benefitting from customer information, including the name, address, telephone number, email address, social security number, 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 either Defendant Hessler or the Corporate Defendant obtained prior to entry of this Order; and
- C. Failing to dispose of such customer information in all forms in their possession, custody, or control upon receipt of written direction to do so from a representative of the Commission. Disposal must be by means that protect against unauthorized access to the customer information, such as by burning, pulverizing, or shredding any papers, and by erasing or destroying any electronic media, to ensure that the customer information cannot practicably be read or reconstructed.

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.

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IV. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

Judgment is hereby entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant Hessler, for A. equitable monetary relief, pursuant to Sections 13(b) and 19 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 53(b) and 57b, in the amount of five million, two hundred and eighty three thousand, six hundred and fifty eight dollars (\$5,283,658). The payment of these sums shall be suspended except for ninety thousand dollars, (\$90,000), subject to the provisions of the Section of this Order entitled "RIGHT TO REOPEN."

MONETARY JUDGMENT AND PARTIAL SUSPENSION

- В. Prior to or concurrently with Defendant Hessler's execution of this Order, Defendant Hessler shall turn over the sum of ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000); in the form of a wire transfer in accordance with directions provided by counsel for Plaintiff. The funds shall be held in a non-interest-bearing account pending approval of the settlement by the Federal Trade Commission and the entry of the consent decree by the U.S. District Court, before being disbursed in accordance with procedures specified by the Consumer Protection Branch, Civil Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.
- C. Defendant Hessler relinquishes all dominion, control, and title to the assets surrendered or paid to the fullest extent permitted by law. Defendant Hessler shall

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- make no claim to or demand for return of these assets, directly or indirectly, through counsel or otherwise.
- D. The facts alleged in the Complaint filed in this action shall be taken as true, without further proof, in any subsequent bankruptcy case or civil litigation by or on behalf of the Commission, including in a proceeding to enforce its rights to any payment or monetary judgment pursuant to this Order, such as, including but not limited to, a nondischargeability complaint in any bankruptcy case.
- E. The facts alleged in the Complaint establish all elements necessary to sustain an action by the Plaintiff pursuant to Section 523(a)(2)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(2)(A), and this Order will have collateral estoppel effect for such purposes.
- F. Defendant Hessler acknowledges that the Taxpayer Identification Numbers (Social Security Numbers or Employer Identification Numbers) previously submitted to Plaintiff may be used for collecting and reporting on any delinquent amount arising out of this Order, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. §7701.
- G. All money paid pursuant to this Order may deposited into a fund administered by the Commission or its designee to be used for equitable relief, including consumer redress and any attendant expenses for the administration of any redress fund. If a representative of the Commission decides that direct redress to consumers is

wholly or partially impracticable or money remains after redress is completed, the Commission may apply any remaining money for such other equitable relief (including consumer information remedies) as it determines to be reasonably related to Defendants' practices alleged in the Complaint. Any money not used for such equitable relief is to be deposited to the U.S. Treasury as disgorgement. Defendant Hessler has no right to challenge any actions the Commission or its representatives may take pursuant to this Subsection.

- H. If Defendant Hessler fails to pay fully the amount due at the time specified, Defendant Hessler must cooperate fully with the Commission and their representatives in all attempts to collect the judgment. In such an event, Defendant Hessler agrees to provide federal and state tax returns for the preceding two (2) years, and to complete new financial disclosure forms fully and accurately within ten (10) business days of receiving a request from the Federal Trade Commission or Plaintiff. Defendant Hessler further authorizes Plaintiff and the Federal Trade Commission to verify all information provided on the financial disclosure forms with all appropriate third parties, including financial institutions.
- I. Defendant Hessler agrees that if Defendants receive a credit or refund of any federal or state taxes or penalties paid for the tax years 2007-2012, then Defendant Hessler shall promptly pay the Plaintiff the amount of such credit or refund,

together with any interest Defendants have earned in connection with any such credit or refund.

RIGHT TO REOPEN

- V. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:
- A. Plaintiff's agreement to this Order is expressly premised upon the truthfulness, accuracy, and completeness of Defendants' sworn financial statements and related documents (collectively, "financial representations") submitted to Plaintiff, namely:
 - The Financial Statement of Debtor Brian Hessler, signed on November 6,
 2012, including the attachments;
 - 2. The Financial Statement of Corporate Debtor Business Recovery Services, signed by Brian Hessler on November 7, 2012, including the attachments;
 - 3. The additional documentation Defendant Hessler submitted to Plaintiff by email and facsimile between October 3, 2012 and November 8, 2012, attaching bank statements, trust documents, tax records, and additional supporting documents; and
 - 4. The email Defendant Hessler sent to Plaintiff on May 9, 2013, responding to questions from the Federal Trade Commission.

- B. The suspension of the judgment will be lifted if, upon motion by Plaintiff, the

 Court finds that Defendant Hessler failed to disclose any material asset, materially

 misstated the value of any asset, or made any other material misstatement or

 omission in the financial representations identified above.
- C. If the suspension of the judgment is lifted, the judgment becomes immediately due in the amount specified above (which the parties stipulate only for purposes of this Section represents the consumer injury, less any payment previously made pursuant to this Section, plus interest computed from the date of entry of this Order).

ORDER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- VI. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant Hessler obtain acknowledgments of receipt of this Order:
- A. Defendant Hessler, within seven (7) days of the entry of this Order, must submit to the Federal Trade Commission an acknowledgment of receipt of this Order sworn under penalty of perjury.
- B. For 5 years after entry of this Order, Defendant Hessler, for any business that Defendant Hessler is the majority owner or directly or indirectly controls, must deliver a copy of this Order to: (1) all principals, officers, directors, managers,

and members; (2) all employees, agents, and representatives who participate in marketing or advertising any product or service on websites or through telemarketing; and (3) any business entity resulting from any change in structure as set forth in the Section titled Compliance Reporting. Delivery must occur within seven (7) days of entry of this Order for current personnel. To all others, delivery must occur before they assume their responsibilities.

- C. For any business where Defendant Hessler is not a controlling person of a business but where the business engages in telemarketing or the sale of recovery goods and services, Defendant Hessler shall deliver a copy of this Order to all principals and managers of such business before engaging in such conduct.
- D. From each individual or entity to which Defendant Hessler delivers a copy of this Order, Defendant Hessler must obtain, within 30 days, a signed and dated acknowledgment of receipt of this Order, and shall maintain those statements in accordance with the Section of this Order entitled "Recordkeeping."

COMPLIANCE REPORTING

VII. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant Hessler make timely submissions to the Federal Trade Commission:

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- A. 180 days after entry of this Order, Defendant Hessler must submit a compliance report, sworn under penalty of perjury.
 - 1. Defendant Hessler must: (a) designate at least one telephone number and an email, physical, and postal address as points of contact, which representatives of Plaintiff and the Federal Trade Commission may use to communicate with Defendant Hessler; (b) identify all of Defendant Hessler'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 products and services offered, the means of advertising, marketing, and sales, and the involvement of any other Defendant (which Defendant Hessler must describe if he knows or should know due to his own involvement); (d) describe in detail whether and how Defendant Hessler is in compliance with each Section of this Order; and (e) provide a copy of each Order Acknowledgment obtained pursuant to this Order, unless previously submitted to the Federal Trade Commission;
 - 2. Additionally, Defendant Hessler must: (a) identify all telephone numbers and all email, Internet, physical, and postal addresses, including all residences; (b) identify all titles and roles in all business

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27 28 activities, including any business for which Defendant Hessler performs services whether as an employee or otherwise and any entity in which Defendant Hessler has any ownership interest; and (c) describe in detail Defendant Hessler's involvement in each such business, including title, role, responsibilities, participation, authority, control, and any ownership.

- В. For 15 years following entry of this Order, Defendant Hessler must submit a compliance notice, sworn under penalty of perjury, within 14 days of any change in the following:
 - 1. Defendant Hessler must report any change in: (a) any designated point of contact; and (b) the structure of the Corporate Defendant or any entity that Defendant Hessler has any ownership interest in or directly or indirectly controls 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, Defendant Hessler must report any change in: (a) name, including aliases or fictitious name, or residence address; or (b) title or role in any business activity, including any business for which

Defendant Hessler performs services whether as an employee or otherwise and any entity in which Defendant Hessler has any ownership interest, and identify its name, physical address, and Internet address, if any.

- C. Defendant Hessler must submit to the Federal Trade Commission notice of the filing of any bankruptcy petition, insolvency proceeding, or any similar proceeding by or against such Defendant within 14 days of its filing.
- D. Any submission to the Federal Trade 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 supply the date, signatory's full name, title (if applicable), and signature.
- E. Unless otherwise directed by a Federal Trade Commission representative in writing, all submissions to the Federal Trade 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: <u>United States v. Business Recovery Services</u>, File No. 1123009.

RECORDKEEPING

- VIII. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant Hessler must create certain records for 15 years after entry of the Order, and retain each such record for 5 years.

 Specifically, Defendant Hessler, for any business in which Defendant Hessler, individually or collectively with any other Defendant, is a majority owner or directly or indirectly controls, must maintain the following records:
- A. Accounting records showing the revenues from all goods or services sold, all costs incurred in generating those revenues, and the resulting net profit or loss;
- B. Personnel records showing, for each person providing services, whether as an employee or otherwise, that person's: name, addresses, and telephone numbers; job title or position; dates of service; and, if applicable, the reason for termination;
- C. Complaints and refund requests, whether received directly or indirectly, such as through a third party, and any response;
- D. Copies of all sales scripts, training materials, advertisements, or other marketing materials; and

E. All records necessary to demonstrate full compliance with each provision of thisOrder, including all submissions to the Federal Trade Commission.

COMPLIANCE MONITORING

- IX. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for the purpose of monitoring Defendant
 Hessler's compliance with this Order, including the financial representations upon which
 the judgment was suspended:
- A. Within fourteen (14) days of receipt of a written request from a representative of Plaintiff or the Federal Trade Commission, Defendant Hessler 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 Federal Trade Commission and Plaintiff are 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 telephonic depositions), 31, 33, 34, 36, 45, and 69.
- B. For matters concerning this Order, Plaintiff and the Federal Trade Commission are authorized to communicate directly with Defendant Hessler. Defendant Hessler must permit representatives of the Plaintiff and the Federal Trade Commission to

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interview any employee or other person affiliated with any Defendant who has agreed to such an interview. The person interviewed may have counsel present.

C. Plaintiff and the Federal Trade Commission may use all other lawful means, including posing, through its representatives, as consumers, suppliers, or other individuals or entities, to Defendants or any individual or entity affiliated with Defendants, without the necessity of identification or prior notice. Nothing in this Order limits the Plaintiff and the Federal Trade Commission's lawful use of compulsory process, pursuant to Sections 9 and 20 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 49, 57b-1.

CONCLUSION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Court retains jurisdiction of this matter for purposes of construction, modification, and enforcement of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as a result of this judgment, the motion for summary judgment (Doc. 207) is denied as moot.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the joint motion for stipulated final judgment (Doc. 223) is granted.

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Dated this 27th day of September, 2013.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that because this Judgment resolves all remaining claims against all remaining defendants, the Clerk of the Court shall close this case.

James A. Teilborg Senior United States District Judge

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1	Injunction and Other Equitable Relief. I received a copy of the Stipulated Final
2	Judgment and Order for Permanent Injunction and Other Equitable Relief on
3	, 2013, and a true and correct copy of the Order that I
4	received is attached to this Acknowledgment.
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6	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America
7	that the foregoing is true and correct.
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9	Date:
10	Brian Hessler
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14	State of, City of
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16	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of, 2013.
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19	Notary Public
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22	wy commission expires.
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1	I was not a Defendant in that court case. My title or relationship with Defendan
2	Brian Hessler is
3	Brian Hossier is
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5	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of Americ
6	that the foregoing is true and correct.
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9	Date: [Signature]
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