

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

January 28, 2016

Perfect Privacy, LLC Attention: Legal Department 303 Peachtree Center Avenue Suite 500 Atlanta, GA 30303

abuse@perfectprivacy.com

Via Email and Certified Mail:

Re: SL PROGRAMS STUDENT LOAN and DEBT CONSOLIDATION WEBSITE

Dear Sir/Madam

It is our understanding that Perfect Privacy, LLC is the registrant for SL Programs Student Loan and Debt Consolidation (SL Programs) website www.slprograms.org. We contacted SL Programs via its toll free and direct numbers but were unable to obtain any assistance with this matter. We were also unable to locate a physical address for SL Programs and therefore, are contacting you as the registrant for SL Programs' website.

This letter concerns SL Programs' unauthorized use of the Official Seal of the U. S. Department of Education (Seal) and its misrepresentation of a relationship between the U. S. Department of Education (Department) and SL Programs. SL Programs' website displays the Department's Seal, without prior written approval as required by 34 CFR §3.4 (a) & (b) and in a color scheme that differs from the Seal's official colors. In addition to unauthorized use, use of the Department's Seal in this manner implies that the Department is affiliated with SL Programs, its website and/or its related goods and services. SL Programs' use of the Department's Seal is a violation of federal law, specifically 15 U.S.C. § 1125, which imposes civil liability for false assertions of sponsorship or approval for commercial activities. The Department is also investigating whether SL Programs' activities violate 18 USC §1017, which includes a fine and/or imprisonment for a period of not more than five (5) years.

For the reasons stated above, the Department must insist that SL Programs cease and desist all use of the Department's Seal. To avoid further confusion, the Department insists that the following disclaimer be placed on the homepage of the SL Programs' website: "This site is not affiliated with or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education. The content or any information posted on this site does not reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Education."

To avoid further action, we ask that SL Programs' confirm in writing no later than February 4, 2016, that it has implemented the requests in the preceding paragraphs. If we do not receive SL Programs' written assurance by that date, the Department will have no choice but to take all available steps to protect its rights.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (202)401-6000.

Sincerely,

Antonier White

Deputy Assistant General Counsel,

Division of Business and Administrative Law

cc: Scott Bolden, Civil Division United States Department of Justice



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

January 28, 2016

The Student Loan Project San Diego Office 3505 Camino Del Rio S., Suite 340 San Diego, CA 92108

Via Certified Mail

Re: <u>MISLEADING USE OF ED SEAL AND MISREPRESENTATIONS ON THE STUDENT LOAN PROJECT WEBSITE</u>

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter concerns The Student Loan Project's unauthorized use of the Official Seal of the U. S. Department of Education (Seal) and misrepresentation of a relationship between the U. S. Department of Education (Department) and the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) on The Student Loan Project's website at www.studentloanproject.us.

The Student Loan Project is using the Department's Seal on its website without prior written approval as required by 34 CFR §3.4 (a) & (b). Your use of the Department's Seal in this manner implies that the Department is affiliated with your organization and/or your website and its related goods and services. This use of the Department's Seal is a violation of federal law, specifically 15 U.S.C. § 1125, which imposes civil liability for false assertions of sponsorship or approval for commercial activities. The Department is also investigating whether your activities violate 18 USC §1017, which includes a fine and/or imprisonment for a period of not more than five (5) years.

In addition to using the Department's Seal without authorization, The Student Loan Project uses .us in its URL, displays the American flag in its banner on the page in question, and advertises its debt consolidation services while referencing the Department and Treasury. Such representations are prohibited by 18 USC §712 which bars the use of .us and any federal emblem or insignia in the collection of private debts where the purpose is to convey in a reasonably calculated manner the false impression that such communication represents the agency. A violation of this section is punishable by a fine, and/or imprisonment for not more than one year.

For the reasons stated above, the Department insists that you cease and desist all inappropriate uses of the Department's Seal, the .us URL, the American flag, as well as all unauthorized references to the Department and Treasury. To avoid further confusion, the Department also insists that the following disclaimer be placed on the homepage of The Student Loan Project's website: "This site is not affiliated with or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education. The content or any information posted on this site does not reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Education."

To avoid further action, please confirm in writing no later than February 4, 2016, that you have implemented the requested actions. If we do not receive your written assurance by that date, the Department will have no choice but to take all available steps to protect its rights.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (202)401-6000.

Sincerely,

Antonier White

Deputy Assistant General Counsel,

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Division of Business and Administrative Law

cc: Scott Bolden, Civil Division United States Department of Justice