



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ANTITRUST DIVISION
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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA EX REL.
WAYNE STENEHJEM,
ATTORNEY GENERAL,

Petitioner,

-vs-

STACY DAHL, also known as
STACY LYNN DAHL and **STACY**
ALEXANDER, Individually, and
doing business as
HELPING HANDS, INC.

Respondent.

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER,
NOTICE OF CIVIL PENALTY
AND NOTICE OF RIGHT
TO REQUEST A HEARING**

CPAT 120180.002

To the individual and entity identified below (hereinafter "Respondent"):

Stacy Dahl
45443 US Hwy 59 SE
Winger, MN 56592-9472

Stacy Dahl
DBA Helping Hands, Inc.
45443 US Hwy 59 SE
Winger, MN 56592-9472

(including all of those entities' officers, directors, owners, agents, servants, employees and representatives as well as all other persons in active concert or participation with them, extending to all "doing business as" names, formal corporate names, fictitious names of any kind or any variations of the same)

BACKGROUND

1. The Attorney General of North Dakota has a reasonable basis to believe Respondent has engaged in and is engaging in acts or practices declared unlawful by North Dakota Century Code (“N.D.C.C.”) ch. 51-15, commonly referred to as the “Consumer Fraud Law,” N.D.C.C. ch. 50-22, commonly referred to as the “Charitable Organizations Soliciting Contributions Law,” and N.D.C.C. ch. 53-06.1, commonly referred to as the “Games of Chance Law.” It is necessary and appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of consumers to restrain Respondent’s unlawful acts or practices.

2. Respondent, Stacy Dahl also known as Stacy Lynn Dahl and Stacy Alexander, is a Minnesota resident, residing at 45443 US Hwy 59 SE, Winger, MN 56592. Respondent has operated under the name of “Helping Hands, Inc.” Neither Stacy Dahl nor Helping Hands, Inc. are registered with the North Dakota Secretary of State as a charitable organization as required by (“N.D.C.C.”) ch. 50-22. Additionally, pursuant to N.D.C.C. ch. 53-06.1, Neither Stacy Dahl nor Helping Hands, Inc. are authorized to conduct raffles in North Dakota.

3. Respondent is doing business under the name “Helping Hands, Inc.” and has engaged in violations of North Dakota's Consumer Fraud Law and Charitable Organizations Soliciting Contributions Law by making false or misleading statements or misrepresentations in advertisements and solicitations aimed at North Dakota consumers and businesses, and by soliciting funds from North Dakota persons without having registered as a charitable organization as required by law. Additionally,

Respondent has conducted a raffle without being properly licensed pursuant to N.D.C.C. ch. 53-06.1.

4. Respondent has been the subject of North Dakota consumer complaints alleging that Respondent has been soliciting contributions for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Respondent does not have an agreement to fundraise on behalf of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Nevertheless, Respondent has created raffle tickets and flyers to solicit contributions from North Dakota businesses and individuals for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Respondent has solicited contributions for baseball tickets, bus rides to concerts and casinos, and advertisements. Respondent has misrepresented that proceeds would go to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. However, it appears that the events Respondent has solicited contributions for do not exist, and Respondent has not purchased all of the prizes advertised for the raffle. Additionally, the Attorney General has received other consumer complaints alleging that Respondent has sold travel packages, and misrepresented which hotel the consumer would stay at and the rebates the consumer would receive.

5. Allegations made against Respondent, through consumer complaints and other information received by the Attorney General, include allegations that Respondent, in connection with the sale of merchandise, has made untrue, deceptive and misleading representations, and/or has made or engaged in deceptive acts or practices, fraud, false pretense, false promises or misrepresentations with the intent that others rely thereon in violation of N.D.C.C. ch. 51-15. The alleged deceptive practices include misrepresentations regarding her affiliation with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, misrepresentations regarding charity events that do not exist,

misrepresentations regarding prizes that do not exist, and misrepresentations regarding hotel reservations and rebates included in travel packages.

6. Respondent has solicited funds from North Dakota persons without being registered as a charitable organization as required by N.D.C.C. ch. 50-22. It is a class A misdemeanor for a person to conduct a solicitation in violation of N.D.C.C. ch. 50-22.

7. Respondent has solicited funds from North Dakota consumers for raffles without being properly licensed as required by N.D.C.C. ch. 53-06.1. It is a class A misdemeanor for a person to conduct a game of chance in violation of N.D.C.C. ch. 53-06.1

ORDER

Respondent having engaged in violations of N.D.C.C. chs. 51-15, 50-22, and 53-06.1; **NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED** pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 51-15-07 that Respondent, her agents, servants, employees, contractors, representatives (extending to all "doing business as" names, formal corporate names, aliases, fictitious names of any kind or any variations of the same) as well as all other persons in active concert or participation with her, whether directly or indirectly, immediately **CEASE AND DESIST** from: 1) advertising, soliciting, or accepting charitable contributions in North Dakota; 2) advertising or soliciting charitable contributions using untrue, deceptive or misleading representations or engaging in deceptive acts or practices, fraud, false pretenses, false promises or misrepresentations with the intent that consumers rely thereon, in violation of N.D.C.C §§ 50-22-04.3 and 51-15-02; 3) soliciting, advertising, or selling, any merchandise, as defined by N.D.C.C. § 51-15-01(3), including, but not limited to, travel packages, using untrue, deceptive, or misleading representations to consumers or engaging in deceptive acts or practices, fraud, false pretenses, false promises or

misrepresentations with the intent that consumers rely thereon, in violation of N.D.C.C. § 51-15-02; 4) engaging in any charitable solicitations in violation of N.D.C.C. ch. 50-22; 5) conducting any raffles or other games of chance in violation of N.D.C.C. ch. 53-06.1; and 6) engaging in any business activities in violation of N.D.C.C. ch. 51-15. Respondent also shall immediately **CEASE AND DESIST** from taking any payments from North Dakota consumers, including, but not limited to, direct debits or withdrawals from North Dakota consumers' bank accounts, cash, checks, or credit card payments for charitable contributions, including, but not limited to, raffle tickets, or other services and/or merchandise as defined in N.D.C.C. § 51-15-01(3).

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 12.1-09-03 a person is guilty of a criminal offense if he or she intentionally "alters, destroys, mutilates, conceals, or removes a record, document, or thing with intent to impair its verity or availability" in an official proceeding. As such, intentional destruction of any documents related to this matter may result in criminal prosecution.

NOTICE OF CIVIL PENALTIES

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 51-15-07 any violation of this Cease and Desist Order is subject to civil penalties not to exceed \$1,000 per violation. Any violation of this Order that also is a violation of N.D.C.C. ch. 51-15 may result in additional civil penalties of not more than \$5,000 per violation. Any violation of this Order that also is a violation of N.D.C.C. ch. 50-22 may result in additional civil penalties of not more than \$5,000 per violation and is a Class A misdemeanor. Nothing in this Order is intended to limit or waive any rights and remedies available to the State of North Dakota or consumers.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST HEARING

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 51-15-07 you may request a hearing before the Attorney General if such a request is made in writing WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THIS ORDER. Respondent has the right to be represented by legal counsel at the hearing.

Dated this 19th day of July, 2012.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

BY: 

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News Release