

STATE OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES
DIVISION OF FINANCIAL REGULATION

In the Matter of:

Case No. CA-24-0065

TAMIKA BRYANT a/k/a TAMIKA
WILLIAMS, an individual, and AQUARION
ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC, a Wyoming
limited liability company,

FINAL ORDER TO CEASE AND
DESIST, AND ORDER ASSESSING
CIVIL PENALTIES, ENTERED BY
DEFAULT

Respondents.

On March 11, 2025, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services for the State of Oregon (“Director”), acting by and through the Division of Financial Regulation (“Division”) and in accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes (“ORS”) 697.005 to 697.115 (“the Oregon Collection Agency Law”) and the administrative rules promulgated under those statutes, served Notice of Administrative Order CA-24-0065 (“Notice”) on Tamika Bryant a/k/a Tamika Williams and Aquarion Asset Management, LLC (collectively, “Respondents”). The Notice provided notice that the Director issued an order to cease and desist against Respondents and proposed to assess civil penalties against Respondents for violating ORS 697.015, a provision of the Oregon Collection Agency Law.

The Notice offered Respondents an opportunity for a hearing if requested within 20 days of the Notice. The Notice further informed Respondents that if a hearing was not conducted because a Respondent did not timely request a hearing or otherwise defaulted, then the designated portion of the Division’s file and all materials submitted by Respondents in this case would automatically become part of the contested case record for the purpose of proving a prima facie case.

The Director did not receive from request for a hearing from any Respondent and

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1 did not conduct a hearing.

2 The Director finds that the record of this proceeding proves a prima facie case.

3 Now, therefore, after considering the relevant portions of the Division's file relating
4 to this matter, the Director finds and orders as follows.

5 FINDINGS OF FACT

6 The Director FINDS that:

7 1. Aquarion Asset Management, LLC ("AAM") is a Wyoming limited liability
8 company formed in Wyoming on February 19, 2020. The address for AAM's principal
9 office is 1309 Coffeen Avenue Suite 1200, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801.

10 2. AAM is registered with the North Carolina Secretary of State as a foreign
11 limited liability company, with a registered agent listed in Raleigh, North Carolina. An
12 annual report AAM filed with the North Carolina Secretary of State's office in 2023
13 describes the nature of AAM's business as "consulting business, collection agency".

14 3. At times material to this order, Tamika Bryant a/k/a Tamika Williams
15 ("Bryant") was a resident of Midland, North Carolina and she was a manager of AAM.

16 4. During 2023, Respondents operated a website for AAM at
17 www.aquarianam.com. The AAM website listed two addresses as P.O. Box 2634,
18 Matthews, NC 28106, and 9303 Monroe Rd, Ste C, Charlotte, NC 28270, and an email
19 address of contact@aquariuonam.com. The AAM website included limited information
20 regarding "Debt Repayment, Money Management, Planning and Budgeting, etc."

21 5. From 2020 through 2023, Respondents engaged in business as a collections
22 agency, Aquarion Asset Management, LLC.

23 6. Respondents have never been registered with the Division to do business as a
24 collections agency in Oregon.

25 7. During 2023, an Oregon consumer who will be identified for purposes of this
26 Order as "JR" received debt collection calls, voice messages and text messages from AAM.



1 8. On or about May 8, 2023, JR filed a complaint with the Division after learning
2 that AAM is not registered as a collection agency in Oregon.

3 9. During the Division's investigation of JR's complaint, Bryant responded to an
4 inquiry from a compliance specialist employed by the Division. In a message dated
5 September 5, 2023, addressed to the Division's compliance specialist, Bryant identified
6 herself as a manager of AAM.

7 10. On or about October 19, 2023, in response to an inquiry from the Division,
8 Bryant, on behalf of AAM, sent another message to the Division's compliance specialist.
9 In that message, Bryant sent a list of 17 Oregon residents, including their names, addresses
10 and amount of funds AAM collected from each, with the following statement:

11 Thank you for your patience with this matter.
12 Here is the information requested. Below is the list of customers that we
 have invertedly collected funds from in the state of Oregon...
13 ...We have also initiated the process of establishing our license in
 the state of Oregon per the requirements and have ceased collection activity
14 until the license is approved.
 We do apologize for this oversight and are committed to ensuring
15 we are following all state regulations and guidelines moving forward.

16 11. The response Bryant provided to the Division on or about October 19, 2023
17 listed the amount of funds, ranging between \$25 and \$700, that AAM collected from each
18 of the 17 Oregon residents. The amount of the funds collected totaled \$5,200.

19 12. The list of names of the Oregon residents that Bryant sent to the Division did
20 not include JR.

21 13. JR continued to receive collection calls several times per week, including
22 another voice mail message from AAM and text messages with threats of legal action. JR
23 sent the Division a transcript of a collection call JR received on December 22, 2023.

24 14. When Bryant was asked by the Division's compliance specialist why JR's name
25 was not included in the list Bryant had sent, Bryant provided no reasonable response.
26 Bryant said no one should be contacting JR about the debt. Bryant said she would check



1 the system and cease further telephone calls to JR.

2 15. Respondents stopped responding to inquiries from the Division's compliance
3 specialist.

4 16. The Division has no record indicating that AAM has ever applied for or has
5 ever been registered in Oregon as a collection agency.

6 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

7 Unlicensed Collection Agency Activities

8 17. ORS 697.015 forbids a person from doing business as a collections agency in
9 Oregon unless that person "registers with the Department of Consumer and Business
10 Services under ORS 697.031 and maintains the registration in accordance with that
11 section."

12 18. Under ORS 697.005(1)(a)(A), "collection agency" means, among other things,
13 "A person that engages directly or indirectly in soliciting a claim for collection, or
14 collecting or attempting to collect a claim that is owed, due or asserted to be owed or due
15 to another person or to a public body at the time the person solicits, collects or attempts to
16 collect the claim."

17 19. By collecting debts totaling \$5,200 between 2020 and 2023, from at least at
18 least 17 Oregon residents, and by attempting to collect debts from at least one additional
19 Oregon resident, without holding an Oregon collection agency registration, Respondents
20 violated ORS 697.015.

21 Cease and Desist Authority

22 20. Pursuant to ORS 697.093(1)(d)(A), because the Director has reason to believe
23 that Respondents have engaged in violations of ORS 697.015, the Director may issue an
24 order to Respondents to cease and desist from violations of the Oregon Collection Agency
25 Law.

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Civil Penalties Authority

21. Pursuant to ORS 697.095(1), the Director may impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 against any person “who violates any provision of ORS 697.015 or 697.058 or any rule adopted under ORS 697.031, 697.085, or 697.086.”

22. Pursuant to OAR 441-810-0140, the civil penalties shall be \$400 for the first offense and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.

ORDERS

Now therefore, the Director issues the following Orders:

Cease and Desist

23. As authorized by ORS 697.093(1)(d)(A), the Director ORDERS Respondents to CEASE AND DESIST from violating ORS 697.015.

Civil Penalties

24. As authorized by ORS 697.095(1) and OAR 441-810-0140, the Director hereby ORDERS Bryant and AAM to pay, jointly and severally, CIVIL PENALTIES totaling \$17,400 for eighteen violations of ORS 697.015, doing business in Oregon as a collections agency without registering with the Division, including \$400 for the first violation and \$1,000 each for the subsequent 17 violations.

SO ORDERED this 15th day of April, 2025.

Andrew R. Stolfi, Director
Department of Consumer and Business Services

/s/ Dorothy Bean
Dorothy Bean, Chief of Enforcement
Division of Financial Regulation

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NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL APPEAL

Judicial review of final orders in contested cases is governed by ORS 183.482.

Respondent may request judicial review by filing a petition with the Court of Appeals in Salem, Oregon, within 60 days from the date this order is served.

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