



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

March 25, 2016

MC Business Group LLC
555 Huntington Dr. #108
Arcadia, CA 91006

info@msbusinessgroup.com

VIA EMAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL

RE: IMPROPER USE OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SERVICE MARK, LOGO AND URL IMPLYING AN AFFILIATION BETWEEN MC BUSINESS GROUP D/B/A LOANSFORGIVENESS.ORG AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter concerns MC Business Group's (MC) misrepresentation of a relationship between the U.S. Department Education (Department) and MC through the unauthorized use of the Department's marks and URL.

The base of MC's webpage www.Loansforgiveness.org/knowledge displays the following marks and URL owned by the Department: the ED mortarboard logo, the Proud Sponsor of the American Mind[®] service mark and the StudentLoans.gov URL. (Please see attached). MC is using these marks and URL without approval from the Department as required by 15 USC § 1125. Such use implies that the Department either endorses MC or is otherwise affiliated with MC, its website, and/or its related goods and services. Federal law, specifically 15 USC § 1125, imposes civil liability for false assertions of sponsorship or approval for commercial activities. Also, the Department may seek recovery for violation of rights held by registrants of marks registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office under 15 USC § 1117.

In addition, MC is using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) service mark on its webpage, www.loansforgiveness.org/knowledge-base/fafsa-free-application-federal-student-aid/, as well as in the article, "Not So FAFSA: How to Avoid a Student Aid Scam." The FAFSA service mark is owned by the Department and is registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Reg. No. 4,524,039. Therefore, when using the FAFSA service mark, the Department requests that you reference the service mark as *FAFSA[®]* and state on the materials or webpage that "*FAFSA[®] is a registered service mark of the U.S. Department of Education.*"

For the reasons stated above, the Department is requiring MC to cease and desist all inappropriate and/or incorrect use of Department's marks and URL. The Department notes that there is a disclaimer link at the bottom of MC's website's homepage that takes the user to a separate page with the following language: "*MC Business Group LLC, dba www.Loansforgiveness.com is a private company and does not claim to be affiliated with any Federal, State, or Local Government agencies.* However, the Department insists that the following disclaimer be placed on the homepage of the Loansforgiveness.org 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 within ten (10) business days of receipt of this letter, that you have implemented the requests in the preceding paragraphs. If we do not receive your written assurance by that date, the Department will have no choice but to take necessary steps to protect its rights.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracey Sasser", written over a horizontal line.

Tracey Sasser
Assistant General Counsel
Division of Business and Administrative Law

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