## STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

In the Matter of the unlicensed activity of CreditNinja Lending, LLC

## CONSENT ORDER

TO: CreditNinja Lending, LLC 222 South Riverside Plaza Suite 2200 Chicago, IL 60606 steve@creditninja.com

Commissioner of Commerce Grace Arnold (Commissioner) has determined as follows:

1. The Commissioner has advised CreditNinja Lending, LLC (Respondent) that she is prepared to commence formal action pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 45.027 (2022), and other applicable law, based on the allegation that Respondent engaged in unlicensed debt collection activity in violation of Minn. Stat. § 332.33 subd. 1 (2022).

2. Respondent acknowledges that they have been advised of the right to a hearing in this matter, to present argument to the Commissioner, and to appeal from any adverse determination after a hearing. Respondent hereby expressly waives those rights. Respondent further acknowledges that they have been represented by legal counsel throughout these proceedings or has waived that right.

3. Respondent has agreed to informal disposition of this matter without a hearing as provided under Minn. Stat. § 14.59 (2022) and Minn. R. 1400.5900 (2021).

4. For purposes of Minn. Stat. § 16D.17 (2022), Respondent expressly waives the right to any notice or opportunity for a hearing on any civil penalty imposed by the Commissioner. Further, Minn. Stat. § 16D.17 (2022) allows the Commissioner to file and enforce the civil penalty imposed by this Order as a judgment against Respondent in district court without further notice or additional proceedings.

5. The civil penalty and/or any resulting judgment arising from this Order will be nondischargeable in any bankruptcy proceeding. *See* 11 U.S.C. 523 (a)(7) ("A discharge under section 727, 1141, 1228(a), 1228(b) or 1328(b) of this title does not discharge an individual debtor from any debt... to the extent such debt is for a fine, penalty, or forfeiture payable to and for the benefit of a governmental unit, and is not compensation for actual pecuniary loss, other than a tax penalty...").

6. The following Order is in the public interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Minn. Stat. Ch. 45 (2022) that:

A. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$10,000 to the State of Minnesota. The Commissioner has stayed \$2,500 of this penalty. Respondent must pay \$7,500 at the time the Consent to Entry of Order is signed. The stayed portion of the civil penalty may be lifted if Respondent commits further violations of any law, rule, or order related to the duties and responsibilities entrusted to the Commissioner. If the Commissioner determines that Respondent has committed further violations of any law, rule, or order over which the Commissioner has authority, the stay shall be lifted and the stayed portion of the penalty shall become effective in addition to any additional administrative action the Commissioner deems appropriate for the new violation(s). If the Commissioner seeks to lift the stay, Respondent may request a hearing to challenge the factual basis for lifting the stay, but may not challenge the amount of the stayed penalty. If the stay has not been lifted by August 8, 2026, the stayed portion of the civil penalty will be vacated; and

B. Respondent shall cease and desist from violating any laws, rules, or orders related to the duties and responsibilities entrusted to the Commissioner under Minnesota Statute Chapters 332.

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This Order shall be effective upon signature by or on behalf of the Commissioner.

Date: 09/05/2023

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GRACE ARNOLD Commissioner

JACQUELINE OLSON Assistant Commissioner of Enforcement Minnesota Department of Commerce 85 Seventh Place East, Suite 280 St. Paul, MN 55101 (651) 539-1600

## CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

The undersigned, acting on behalf of CreditNinja Lending, LLC, states the undersigned has read this Consent Order; that the undersigned knows and fully understands its contents and effect; that the undersigned is authorized to execute this Consent Order on behalf of CreditNinja Lending, LLC; that the undersigned has been advised of the right to a hearing in this matter, to present argument to the Commissioner, and to appeal from any adverse determination after a hearing and expressly waives those rights. The undersigned further acknowledges that CreditNinja Lending, LLC has been represented by legal counsel throughout these proceedings, or has been advised of its right to be represented by legal counsel, which right it hereby expressly waives; and that it consents to entry of this Order by the Commissioner. It is further understood that this Consent Order constitutes the entire settlement agreement between the parties, there being no other promises or agreements, either express or implied.

CreditNinja Lending, LLC

Johell.

(Name)

By:

Its:

General Counsel
(Title)

Date: August 17, 2023

STATE OF COOK

COUNTY OF ILLINOIS

Signed or attested before me on <u>08/10/2023</u> (Date).

(Notary stamp)

OFFICIAL SEAL MILITZA A. MEYER Notary Public - State of Illinois My Commission Expires 3/17/2027

(Signature of Notary)

My Commission expires:

03/17/2027

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