

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF  
DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
CIVIL ACTION – EQUITY

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA	:	
by Attorney General MICHELLE A. HENRY	:	No. _____
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	CIVIL ACTION – EQUITY
	:	
CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC, d/b/a	:	
PA CORPORATE CERTIFICATES	:	
	:	
BRIAN CAPOBIANCO, as OWNER of	:	
CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC	:	
	:	
DEAN G. MARSHLACK, as OWNER of	:	
CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC	:	
	:	
DAVID MARSHLACK, as OWNER of	:	
CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	
	:	

NOTICE TO DEFEND

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED IN COURT. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this Complaint and Notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the Court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the Court without further notice for any money claimed in the Complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the Plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW. THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER.

IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE.

DAUPHIN COUNTY LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE  
213 North Front Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 232-7536

**NOTICE**

**CONCERNING MEDIATION OF ACTIONS PENDING BEFORE THE COURT OF  
COMMON PLEAS OF DAUPHIN COUNTY**

The Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin County believe that mediation of lawsuits is a very important component of dispute resolution. Virtually all lawsuits can benefit in some manner from mediation.

The Court has adopted Dauphin County Local Rule 1001 to encourage the use of mediation. This early alert enables litigants to determine the best time during the life of their lawsuit for a mediation session. The intent of this early alert is to help the parties act upon the requirement to consider good faith mediation at the optimal time.

The Dauphin County Bar Association provides mediation services and can be reached at 717-232-7536. Free mediation sessions for pro bono cases referred by MidPenn Legal Services are available through the DCBA.

**A V I S O**

USTED HA SIDO DEMANDADO/A EN COURTE. Si usted desea defenderse de las demandas que se presentan mas Adelante en las siguientes paginas, debe tomar accion dentro de los proximos veinte (20) dias despues de la notificacion de esta Demanda y Aviso radicando personalmente o por medio de un abodago una comparecencia escrita y radicando en la Corte por escrito sus defensas de, y objecciones a, las demandas presentadas aqui en contra suya. Se la advierte de que si usted falla de tomar accion como se describe anteriormente, el caso puede proceder sin usted y un fallo pro cualquier suma de dinero reclamanda en la demanda o cualquier otra reclamacion o remedio solicitado por el demandante puede ser dictado en contra suya por la Corte sin mas aviso adicional. Usted puede perder dinero o propiedad u otros derechos importantes para usted.

USTED DEBE LLEVAR ESTE DOCUMENTO A SU ABOGADO INMEDIATAMENTE. SI USTED NO TIENE UN ABOGADO, LLAMA O VAYA A LA SIGUIENTE OFICINA PUEDE PROVEERLE INFORMACION A CERCA DE COMO CONDEGUIR UN ABOGADO.

SI USTED NO PUEDE PAGAR POR LOS SERVICIOS DE UN ABOGADO, ES POSIBLE QUE ESTA OFICINA LE PUEDA PROVEER INFORMACION SOBRE AGENCIAS QUE OFREZCAN SERVICIOS LEGALES SIN CARGO O BAJO COSTO A PERSONAS QUE CUALIFICAN.

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(717) 232-7536

**AVISO**  
**REFERENCIAS A LA MEDIACION DE LAS ACCIONES PENDIENTES ANTES LA**  
**CORTE DE SOPPLICAS COMUNES DEL CONDADO DE DAUPHIN**

Los jueces de la corte de suplicas communes del condado de Dauphin creen que la mediacion de pleitos es un componente muy importante de la resolucio del conflict. Virtualmente todos los pleitos pueden beneficiar de cierta manera de la mediacion.

La code ha adoptado la regla local de condado de Dauphin 1001 para animar el use de la mediation. Esta alarma temprana permite a litigantes determinar la mayor epoca durante la vida de su pleito para una session de la mediacion. El intent de esta alarma temprana es actuar sobre la mediacion de la Buena fe en el tiempo optimo.

La asociacion de la barra del condado de Dauphin proporciona servicios de la mediacion y se puede alcanzar en 717-232-7536. La session libre de la mediacion para los favorables casos del bono se refinio por MidPenn que los servicios juridicios estan disponibles con el DCBA.

This case has been brought by the Commonwealth under the Pennsylvania *Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law*, 73 P.S. §§ 201-1, *et seq.*

**AN ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES  
HEARING IS NOT REQUIRED**

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**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF  
DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
CIVIL ACTION – EQUITY**

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
by Attorney General **MICHELLE A. HENRY**

**Plaintiff,**

**V.**

**CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC, d/b/a  
PA CORPORATE CERTIFICATES**

**BRIAN CAPOBIANCO, as OWNER of  
CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC**

**DEAN MARSHLACK, as OWNER of  
CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC**

**DAVID MARSHLACK, as OWNER of  
CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC**

### Defendants.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**CIVIL ACTION – EQUITY**

## **COMPLAINT**

**AND NOW**, comes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney General, by Attorney General Michelle A. Henry (“Commonwealth” and/or “Plaintiff”), which brings this action on behalf of the Commonwealth pursuant to the provisions of the *Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law*, 73 P.S. §§ 201-1 – 201-9.2 (“Consumer Protection Law”), to restrain by permanent injunction unfair methods of competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce, declared unlawful by the Consumer Protection Law.

The Commonwealth believes that the public interest is served by seeking a permanent injunction from this Honorable Court to restrain the methods, acts and practices of the Defendants. The Commonwealth believes that the citizens of the Commonwealth are suffering and will continue to suffer harm unless the acts and practices complained of herein are permanently enjoined.

The Commonwealth also seeks restitution pursuant to Section 201-4.1 of the Consumer Protection Law. Additionally, the Commonwealth seeks appropriate civil penalties pursuant to Section 201-8(b) of the Consumer Protection Law for all willful violations of said Law, costs and other appropriate equitable relief as redress for violations of the Consumer Protection Law, as set forth herein.

## **JURISDICTION**

1. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Section 931 of the Judicial Code, 42 Pa.C.S. § 931(a).

## **VENUE**

2. Venue lies with this Court pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. No. 2179(a)(2), (3) & (4).

### **THE PARTIES**

3. Plaintiff is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney General, by Attorney General Michelle A. Henry with offices located at Strawberry Square, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

4. Defendant Corporate Certificates, LLC (“Corporate Certificates” or, collectively, one of the “Defendants”) is a Florida limited liability company with a principal place of business located at 412 E. Madison Street, Suite 817, Tampa, FL 33602.

5. Corporate Certificates does business in Pennsylvania under the fictitious name “PA Corporate Certificates.”

6. Corporate Certificates is not registered as a foreign LLC with the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations: Corporations Section (“Corporations Bureau”).

7. The fictitious name “PA Corporate Certificates” is not registered with the Corporations Bureau.

8. Defendant Brian Capobianco (“Defendant Capobianco” or, collectively, one of the “Defendants”) is an adult individual and, upon information and belief, is a Florida resident with a last known address at 7911 Foxcatcher Court, Odessa, Hillsborough County, Florida 33556. Defendant Capobianco is a member, manager, officer and/or director of Corporate Certificates.

9. Defendant Dean Marshlack (“Defendant Dean Marshlack” or, collectively, one of the “Defendants”) is an adult individual and, upon information and belief, is a Florida resident with a last known address at 9916 Menander Wood Court, Odessa, Hillsborough County, Florida 33556. Defendant Dean Marshlack is a member, manager, officer and/or director of Corporate Certificates.

10. Defendant David Marshlack (“Defendant David Marshlack” or, collectively, one of the “Defendants”) is an adult individual and, upon information and belief, is a Florida resident with a last known address at 2116 West Poinsettia Drive, Port Orange, Volusia County, Florida 32128. Defendant David Marshlack is a member, manager, officer and/or director of Corporate Certificates.

11. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants Capobianco, Dean Marshlack and David Marshlack directed and/or had knowledge of, and the ability to control, the activities of Defendant Corporate Certificates alleged by the Commonwealth to violate Pennsylvania law, as described herein.

### **BACKGROUND**

12. Defendants are operating a widespread scam through the use of deceptive solicitations which mislead new Pennsylvania business owners to believe that they are required to purchase upcharged certificates that they do not, in fact need, and are of little to no value.

13. Moreover, Defendants’ solicitations targeting new Pennsylvania business owners give the false or deceptive overall impression that Defendants are affiliated with the Pennsylvania Department of State when, in fact, Defendants have no affiliation whatsoever with any Commonwealth agency.

14. A subsistence certificate or “certificate of good standing” is a Forty and 00/100 Dollar (\$40.00), elective certificate issued by the Pennsylvania Department of State which states that a Pennsylvania business entity is still in existence as a matter of record. A true and accurate, redacted copy of a subsistence certificate is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**.

15. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not require a business owner to obtain a subsistence certificate to organize or operate.

16. A subsistence certificate may be required for certain legitimate business purposes, including when seeking to obtain a loan or renew a business license. The purpose of the subsistence certificate is to serve as conclusive evidence that a business entity “is currently subsisting on the records” of the Pennsylvania Department of State as of the date on which it is issued. *See* 15 Pa.C.S. § 145.

17. Accordingly, a subsistence certificate serves its purpose when it is issued *close in time* to when it is required for a legitimate business purpose.

18. By way of example, if, in the year 2034, a bank were to request a subsistence certificate as documentary proof that a business applying for a loan still exists as a matter of record, a subsistence certificate which states that the business existed as a matter of record in the year 2024 will not provide the information requested by the bank.

19. Despite this, Defendants send their deceptive solicitations to new Pennsylvania business owners within weeks after they create their business, and even include an arbitrary deadline on their solicitations.

20. At all times relevant and material hereto, Defendants engaged in trade and commerce within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by soliciting newly-registered Pennsylvania business owners by mail. True and correct, redacted copies of the single-page form solicitation (the “solicitation”) sent by Defendants is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit B**.

21. The solicitation is divided roughly into thirds and folded so as to fit in a windowed envelope.

22. The top-left of the solicitation bears a return address of 120 S 21<sup>st</sup> Street #504, Philadelphia, PA 19103. This is a mailbox at a UPS Store Location, not a physical business location for Defendants.



23. Certain iterations of the solicitation bear a return address of 120 S 21<sup>st</sup> Street STE 504, Philadelphia, PA 19103. “STE” is an abbreviation for “Suite,” thereby implying a physical business location.

24. The mailbox utilized by Defendants is rented by Defendant Capobianco on behalf of Defendant Corporate Certificates.

25. The address of the recipient, to be displayed through a windowed envelope, is below the return address.

26. The top-right of the solicitation states in boldface, capital letters: “[YEAR] CERTIFICATE OF SUBSISTENCE REQUEST FORM.”

27. Below the above-mentioned header, the solicitation displays an image of an envelope and invites recipients to email [PACS@corporatecertificates.com](mailto:PACS@corporatecertificates.com) or to call 1-800-226-6952 toll-free if they have any questions.

28. Following the address information, the solicitation contains a series of boxes.

29. The first box is double-outlined and states in boldface, capital letters: “IMPORTANT! FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY WHEN COMPLETING THIS FORM. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.”

30. The second box is itself divided into five sections. They are as follows:

- a. A “Key Code” beginning with “PA” followed by ten numbers;
- b. A “Notice Date” within one week of the date on which the recipient’s business entity was registered with the Corporations Bureau;
- c. A “Please Respond By” date two (2) weeks after the “Notice Date”;
- d. The “Business Address” of the recipient; and
- e. An unlabeled barcode corresponding to the “Key Code.”

31. Two paragraphs of text follow below the boxes described above.

32. The first paragraph of the solicitation begins by congratulating the recipient on registering their business “with the State of Pennsylvania.”

33. The solicitation states that the recipient’s “Articles have been filed with the secretary of state and are complete.”

34. The solicitation states that the recipient has “one step left in order to buy your optional Pennsylvania Certificate of Subsistence from Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates.”

35. The first paragraph of the solicitation concludes by directing the recipient to a form below a dotted line at the bottom third of the page to “confirm the accuracy of the information below for your Pennsylvania Certificate Subsistence.”

36. This request to confirm the accuracy of the recipient’s business information is presented in boldface type.

37. The second paragraph of the solicitation begins by stating that a “Certificate of Subsistence is issued by the Secretary of State and may be required for loans, to renew business licenses, or for tax or other business purposes.”

38. The solicitation states “Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates is not affiliated with any government or state agency and this notice is a solicitation for your business.”

39. The solicitation proceeds to describe a subsistence certificate as showing “the official evidence of an entity’s existence,” providing “a statement of an entity’s status, current legal name and date of formation...” and bearing “the official seal of the Pennsylvania Secretary of State.”

40. The second paragraph of the solicitation concludes by stating that “Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates will mail a hard copy of your Certificate of Subsistence to your business address.”

41. The aforementioned paragraphs described in ¶¶ 31-40 are presented in the smallest typeface present on the solicitation.

42. The only use of boldface type, italicization, underlining or any other means of emphasizing text in the aforementioned paragraphs is the use of boldface type described in ¶¶ 29, 36 and 46(b).

43. The solicitation proceeds to a section providing information on three (3) lines:

- a. The publicly-available type of business entity registered by the recipient;
- b. The publicly-available date on which the recipient's business entity was registered; and
- c. The "Certificate of Subsistence Fee" of One Hundred Two and 50/100 Dollars (\$102.50).

44. Defendants' solicitation does not disclose that their Certificate of Subsistence Fee of One Hundred Two and 50/100 Dollars (\$102.50) is more expensive than the Forty and 00/100 Dollar (\$40.00) cost of a Subsistence certificate obtained directly from the Pennsylvania Department of State.

45. The bottom third of the solicitation is separated from the rest by a dotted line.

46. The bottom third of the solicitation requests that the recipient follow four (4) steps:

- a. Step 1 requests that the recipient confirm the publicly-available business name, business address and Department of State identification number of their business entity;
- b. Step 2, Contact Information, directs the recipient to "**NOT Skip This Step!**" and provides spaces for the recipient to provide their name, email and phone number;
- c. Step 3, Payment, provides a checkbox for a recipient to denote that they have enclosed a check or money order to by the Certificate of Subsistence Fee, requests that the recipient allow up to four (4) weeks for processing and return of document, and contains another unlabeled barcode, identical to the preceding barcode; and
- d. Step 4, Authorization, requests that the recipient sign, date and return the form with payment enclosed within the return envelope provided.

47. Across the bottom of the solicitation reads “FORM PACS-CE 10.883(1),” the “Notice Date” and “FOR OFFICE USE ONLY,” followed by the “Key Code.”

48. The Bureau of Consumer Protection (“Bureau”) has received complaints which indicate that some recipients of the solicitation believed that the solicitation came from a Commonwealth agency and/or that obtaining a subsistence certificate was a necessary step to complete the organization of their business. This belief was based on the appearance of and language used in the solicitation.

49. In some instances, the business owners who received the solicitation were first-time business owners who were uncertain of the requirements to conduct business in the Commonwealth.

50. In some instances, the business owners who sent a check to the Defendants in response to the solicitation did not receive a subsistence certificate in return.

51. The appearance of the solicitation tends to mislead or confuse recipients. The Commonwealth believes and therefore avers that Defendants crafted the solicitation to create the impression that it is an official document from either the Pennsylvania Department of State or another Commonwealth agency.

52. The Commonwealth believes and therefore avers that Defendants’ use of the unregistered fictitious name “PA Corporate Certificates” misleads Pennsylvania business owners into believing the solicitation was an official document from either the Pennsylvania Department of State or another Commonwealth agency.

53. The indicia that the solicitation misleads business owners include but are not limited to the following:

- a. The solicitation is sent to the recipient shortly after registration with the Pennsylvania Department of State, which creates the impression that the solicitation is being sent by either the Pennsylvania Department of State or another Commonwealth agency in connection with the registration process;
- b. The solicitation includes a deadline to respond when the Pennsylvania Department of State does not require business owners to obtain the certificates and, accordingly, there is no deadline to request one;
- c. The statement “Congratulations on registering your business with the State of Pennsylvania. Your Articles have been filed with the secretary of state and are complete,” suggests a specialized knowledge of the Pennsylvania Department of State filing process and the recipient’s specific status;
- d. The use of the recipient’s business name, type of entity, date of registration and Pennsylvania Department of State identification number, which the average Pennsylvania business owner may not be aware is publicly available, further suggests a specialized knowledge of or affiliation with the Pennsylvania Department of State filing process and the recipient’s specific status;
- e. The double-outlined box containing boldface directions stating “IMPORTANT! FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY...” implies that responding is important, despite the lack of a legal requirement for the recipient to do so;
- f. The phrasing that the recipient has “one step left” falsely implies that requesting a subsistence certificate is a required step in the creation of a business entity;
- g. The format and appearance of the solicitation, including a series of rectangular boxes, bar codes and form designations in the footer suggest it is a standardized government document;
- h. The titling of the solicitation as the “[YEAR] CERTIFICATE OF SUBSISTENCE REQUEST FORM” falsely implies that a subsistence certificate is a document which a business owner must obtain annually, when, in fact, a subsistence certificate is completely optional and may never be necessary;
- i. The solicitation’s return address directing all mail to a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania rented mailbox disguises the fact that the Defendants’ place of business is actually in Florida; and
- j. Certain iterations of the solicitation’s use of “STE” in the return address further disguises the fact that Defendants’ place of business is in Florida by suggesting that Defendants maintain a physical office location in Pennsylvania.

54. Defendants unsuccessfully attempt to mitigate the net deceptive impression of their solicitations by way of the following:

- a. Description of the subsistence certificate as “optional” in the smallest typeface present in the solicitation; and
- b. Inclusion of the sentence “Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates is not affiliated with any government or state agency and this notice is a solicitation for your business” in the smallest typeface present in the solicitation.

55. The above-noted disclosures are not clear and conspicuous and fail to negate the deceptive overall net impression that the solicitation is coming from a Commonwealth agency in regard to a document that a new business owner is required to obtain.

56. Defendants offer little to no benefit or advantage compared with a business directly requesting a subsistence certificate from the Department of State, and it charges over twice the certificate’s Forty-Dollar fee to perform this negligible service.

57. The Pennsylvania Department of State has been made aware of Defendants and has designated their activities as a “partial SCAM.” A true and correct image of the Pennsylvania Department of State’s “Scams” webpage is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit C**.

58. On information and belief, Defendants has purchased at least approximately Two Thousand (2,000) subsistence certificates from the Pennsylvania Department of State since March 2024.

59. The Commonwealth believes and therefore avers that there may be additional victims who have not filed complaints with the Bureau and who have also been harmed due to the methods, acts and practices of Defendants, which include, but are not limited to, those as alleged herein.

60. The Commonwealth believes that the public interest is served by seeking before this Honorable Court a permanent injunction to restrain the methods, acts and practices of the

Defendants, as complained of herein and as hereafter set forth. Further, the Commonwealth requests injunctive relief, restitution, civil penalties, costs and other appropriate equitable relief as redress for violations of the Consumer Protection Law.

**COUNT I – VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW**

**DEFENDANTS MISLED PENNSYLVANIA BUSINESS OWNERS INTO PURCHASING ITS SERVICES BY IMITATING A COMMONWEALTH AGENCY**

61. The averments and allegations of the preceding paragraphs are incorporated as though the same were fully set forth herein.

62. Defendants have engaged in “trade” and “commerce” within the meaning of the Consumer Protection Law, 73 P.S. §§ 201-2(3), by offering services via the mail and, upon collecting payment and authorization, performing the service of obtaining a subsistence certificate for Pennsylvania business owners.

63. As described in the preceding paragraphs, the solicitation sent by Defendants offering services bears several features likening it to a government document.

64. Issuing solicitations to Pennsylvania business owners which appear to be from a government agency has the capacity to mislead recipients regarding their rights and responsibilities.

65. Issuing solicitations to Pennsylvania business owners which appear to be from an entity based and/or located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has the capacity to mislead recipients regarding the location and affiliation of the sender, thereby creating a more trustworthy impression than is warranted.

66. By imitating an agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Defendants have engaged in “unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct

of trade or commerce,” which violated Section 201-3 of the Consumer Protection Law, as defined by Section 201-2(4)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v) and (xxi):

- a. Section 201-2(4)(i), which prohibits passing off goods or services as those of another;
- b. Section 201-2(4)(ii), which prohibits causing a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the source, sponsorship, approval or certification of goods or services;
- c. Section 201-2(4)(iii), which prohibits causing a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to affiliation, connection or association with, or certification by, another;
- d. Section 201-2(4)(iv), which prohibits using deceptive representations or designations of geographic origin in connection with goods or services;
- e. Section 201-2(4)(v), which prohibits representing that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits or quantities that they do not have or that a person has a sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation, or connection that he does not have; and
- f. Section 201-2(4)(xxi), which prohibits engaging in any other fraudulent or deceptive conduct which creates a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding.

67. The Commonwealth alleges that all of the practices described above were performed willfully.

68. The Commonwealth believes that the public interest is served by seeking before this Court a permanent injunction to restrain the methods, acts and practices described herein, as well as seeking restitution and civil penalties for violation of the law. The Commonwealth believes that citizens of the Commonwealth are suffering and will continue to suffer harm unless the acts and practices complained of herein are permanently enjoined.

**WHEREFORE**, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania respectfully requests that this Honorable Court issue an Order:



A. Declaring Defendants' conduct as described herein above to be in violation of the Consumer Protection Law;

B. Pursuant to Section 201-4 of the Consumer Protection Law, permanently enjoining Defendants and all other persons acting on Defendants' behalf, directly or indirectly, from violating the Consumer Protection Law, and any amendments thereto;

C. Pursuant to Section 201-4 of the Consumer Protection Law, permanently enjoining Defendants, in any capacity, from offering for sale the provision of a subsistence certificate to Pennsylvania business owners;

D. Pursuant to Section 201-4.1 of the Consumer Protection Law, directing Defendants to make full restitution to all Pennsylvania business owners who have suffered losses as a result of the acts and practices alleged in this complaint and any other acts or practices which violate the Consumer Protection Law;

E. Pursuant to Section 201-8(b) of the Consumer Protection Law, directing Defendants to pay to the Commonwealth civil penalties of One Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each instance of a past or present violation of the Consumer Protection Law, and Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000.00) for each instance of a past or present violation of the Consumer Protection Law involving consumers age sixty (60) or older as victims;

F. Pursuant to Section 201-4.1 of the Consumer Protection Law, as amended by Section 1602-U of the Fiscal Code, directing Defendants to reimburse the Commonwealth for its costs of investigation and litigation of this action, including but not limited to attorney fees; and

G. Granting such other general, equitable and/or further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT II – VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW**

**DEFENDANTS KNOWINGLY MISREPRESENTED TO BUSINESS OWNERS THAT  
THEIR SERVICES OF NEGLIGIBLE VALUE WERE NEEDED  
WHEN SUCH SERVICES WERE NOT NEEDED**

69. The averments and allegations of the preceding paragraphs are incorporated as though the same were fully set forth herein.

70. Defendants offered to provide certificates of subsistence to Pennsylvania business owners for One Hundred Two and 50/100 Dollars (\$102.50).

71. The Pennsylvania Department of State offers certificates of subsistence for Forty and 00/100 Dollars (\$40.00).

72. Furthermore, a Pennsylvania business which has just been incorporated, may or may not need of a subsistence certificate.

73. If a subsistence certificate is required in any case, it is easily and quickly obtained directly from the Pennsylvania Department of State.

74. If a subsistence certificate is required in any case, it will be required to be issued close in time to when it is requested.

75. There is no deadline at any point in time beyond which a business owner will be able to obtain a subsistence certificate; indeed, the existence of a deadline to obtain such a document is completely contrary to its purpose.

76. Defendants' solicitation fails to disclose any of the above-noted material information.

77. Instead, Defendants' business model solicits Pennsylvania business owners to purchase a subsistence certificate within weeks after the business entity has been created, including

through the use of a misleading title; arbitrary deadline; and incomplete, misleading description of what purpose a subsistence certificate serves.

78. Defendants, therefore, misled and continue to mislead Pennsylvania business owners into overpaying Defendants to perform a service which those business owners could easily and quickly perform at less than half the cost, in order to obtain a document which will quickly lose the value it held, if it held any at all.

79. By misrepresenting to Pennsylvania business owners that they need Defendants' services of negligible value, Defendants have engaged in "unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of trade or commerce," which violated Section 201-3 of the Consumer Protection Law, as defined by Section 201-2(4)(xv) and (xxi):

- a. Section 201-2(4)(xv), which prohibits knowingly misrepresenting that services, replacements or repairs are needed if they are not needed; and
- b. Section 201-2(4)(xxi), which prohibits engaging in any other fraudulent or deceptive conduct which creates a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding.

80. The Commonwealth alleges that all of the practices described above were performed willfully.

81. The Commonwealth believes that the public interest is served by seeking before this Court a permanent injunction to restrain the methods, acts and practices described herein, as well as seeking restitution and civil penalties for violation of the law. The Commonwealth believes that citizens of the Commonwealth are suffering and will continue to suffer harm unless the acts and practices complained of herein are permanently enjoined.

**WHEREFORE,** the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania respectfully requests that this Honorable Court issue an Order:

A. Declaring Defendants' conduct as described herein above to be in violation of the Consumer Protection Law;

B. Pursuant to Section 201-4 of the Consumer Protection Law, permanently enjoining Defendants and all other persons acting on Defendants' behalf, directly or indirectly, from violating the Consumer Protection Law, and any amendments thereto;

C. Pursuant to Section 201-4 of the Consumer Protection Law, permanently enjoining Defendants, in any capacity, from offering for sale the provision of a subsistence certificate to Pennsylvania business owners;

D. Pursuant to Section 201-4.1 of the Consumer Protection Law, directing Defendants to make full restitution to all Pennsylvania business owners who have suffered losses as a result of the acts and practices alleged in this complaint and any other acts or practices which violate the Consumer Protection Law;

E. Pursuant to Section 201-8(b) of the Consumer Protection Law, directing Defendants to pay to the Commonwealth civil penalties of One Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each instance of a past or present violation of the Consumer Protection Law, and Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000.00) for each instance of a past or present violation of the Consumer Protection Law involving consumers age sixty (60) or older as victims;

F. Pursuant to Section 201-4.1 of the Consumer Protection Law, as amended by Section 1602-U of the Fiscal Code, directing Defendants to reimburse the Commonwealth for its costs of investigation and litigation of this action, including but not limited to attorney fees; and

G. Granting such other general, equitable and/or further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT III – VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW**

**DEFENDANTS ACCEPTED PAYMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF A SERVICE  
AND SUBSEQUENTLY FAILED TO PERFORM SAID SERVICE**

82. The averments and allegations of the preceding paragraphs are incorporated as though the same were fully set forth herein.

83. In certain instances, Defendants accepted payment from Pennsylvania business owners who received their solicitation but subsequently failed to provide the service for which they paid.

84. By failing to provide the service that they solicited and for which they were paid, Defendants have engaged in “unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of trade or commerce,” which violated Section 201-3 of the Consumer Protection Law, as defined by Section 201-2(4)(xxi), which prohibits engaging in any other fraudulent or deceptive conduct which creates a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding.

85. The Commonwealth alleges that all of the practices described above were performed willfully.

86. The Commonwealth believes that the public interest is served by seeking before this Court a permanent injunction to restrain the methods, acts and practices described herein, as well as seeking restitution and civil penalties for violation of the law. The Commonwealth believes that citizens of the Commonwealth are suffering and will continue to suffer harm unless the acts and practices complained of herein are permanently enjoined.

**WHEREFORE**, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania respectfully requests that this Honorable Court issue an Order:

A. Declaring Defendants’ conduct as described herein above to be in violation of the Consumer Protection Law;

B. Pursuant to Section 201-4 of the Consumer Protection Law, permanently enjoining Defendants and all other persons acting on Defendants' behalf, directly or indirectly, from violating the Consumer Protection Law, and any amendments thereto;

C. Pursuant to Section 201-4 of the Consumer Protection Law, permanently enjoining Defendants, in any capacity, from offering for sale the provision of a subsistence certificate to Pennsylvania business owners;

D. Pursuant to Section 201-4.1 of the Consumer Protection Law, directing Defendants to make full restitution to all Pennsylvania business owners who have suffered losses as a result of the acts and practices alleged in this complaint and any other acts or practices which violate the Consumer Protection Law;

E. Pursuant to Section 201-8(b) of the Consumer Protection Law, directing Defendants to pay to the Commonwealth civil penalties of One Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each instance of a past or present violation of the Consumer Protection Law, and Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000.00) for each instance of a past or present violation of the Consumer Protection Law involving consumers age sixty (60) or older as victims;

F. Pursuant to Section 201-4.1 of the Consumer Protection Law, as amended by Section 1602-U of the Fiscal Code, directing Defendants to reimburse the Commonwealth for its costs of investigation and litigation of this action, including but not limited to attorney fees; and

G. Granting such other general, equitable and/or further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT IV – VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW**

**DEFENDANTS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE FICTITIOUS NAMES ACT**

87. The averments and allegations of the preceding paragraphs are incorporated as though the same were fully set forth herein.

88. The Pennsylvania *Fictitious Names Act*, 54 Pa.C.S. §§ 301, *et seq.* (hereinafter the “FNA”) states that “any entity which either alone or in combination with any other entity conducts any business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under or through any fictitious name shall register the fictitious name with the Pennsylvania Department of State.”

89. Defendants conducted business under the fictitious name “PA Corporate Certificates.”

90. Defendants failed to register the fictitious name under which it conducted business in accordance with the requirements of FNA Section 303(b), which provides that any entity which conducts business in this Commonwealth under or through any fictitious name shall register the fictitious name under the chapter and shall amend such registration whenever necessary to maintain the accuracy of the information disclosed thereby. 54 Pa.C.S. § 303(b).

91. By failing to comply with the FNA, as set forth above, Defendants have engaged in “unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of trade or commerce,” which violated Section 201-3 of the Consumer Protection Law, as defined by Section 201-2(4)(ii), (iii) and (xxi):

- a. Section 201-2(4)(i), which prohibits passing off goods or services as those of another;
- b. Section 201-2(4)(ii), which prohibits causing a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the source, sponsorship, approval or certification of goods or services;

- c. Section 201-2(4)(xxi), which prohibits engaging in any other fraudulent or deceptive conduct which creates a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding.

92. The Commonwealth alleges that all of the practices described above were performed willfully.

93. The Commonwealth believes that the public interest is served by seeking before this Court a permanent injunction to restrain the methods, acts and practices described herein, as well as seeking restitution and civil penalties for violation of the law. The Commonwealth believes that citizens of the Commonwealth are suffering and will continue to suffer harm unless the acts and practices complained of herein are permanently enjoined.

**WHEREFORE,** the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania respectfully requests that this Honorable Court issue an Order:

A. Declaring Defendants' conduct as described herein above to be in violation of the Consumer Protection Law;

B. Pursuant to Section 201-4 of the Consumer Protection Law, permanently enjoining Defendants and all other persons acting on Defendants' behalf, directly or indirectly, from violating the Consumer Protection Law, and any amendments thereto;

C. Pursuant to Section 201-4 of the Consumer Protection Law, permanently enjoining Defendants, in any capacity, from offering for sale the provision of a subsistence certificate to Pennsylvania business owners;

D. Pursuant to Section 201-4.1 of the Consumer Protection Law, directing Defendants to make full restitution to all Pennsylvania business owners who have suffered losses as a result of the acts and practices alleged in this complaint and any other acts or practices which violate the Consumer Protection Law;



E. Pursuant to Section 201-8(b) of the Consumer Protection Law, directing Defendants to pay to the Commonwealth civil penalties of One Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each instance of a past or present violation of the Consumer Protection Law, and Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000.00) for each instance of a past or present violation of the Consumer Protection Law involving consumers age sixty (60) or older as victims;

F. Pursuant to Section 201-4.1 of the Consumer Protection Law, as amended by Section 1602-U of the Fiscal Code, directing Defendants to reimburse the Commonwealth for its costs of investigation and litigation of this action, including but not limited to attorney fees; and

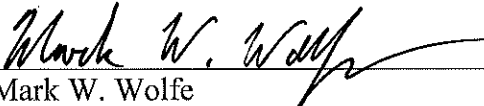
G. Granting such other general, equitable and/or further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully Submitted,

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

MICHELLE A. HENRY  
*Attorney General*

Date: 12/20/24

By:   
Mark W. Wolfe  
*Deputy Attorney General*  
PA Attorney I.D. No. 327807  
Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General  
Strawberry Square, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Telephone: 717-772-3558  
Email: mwolfe@attorneygeneral.gov  
*Attorney for Plaintiff*

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF  
DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
CIVIL ACTION – EQUITY

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
by Attorney General MICHELLE A. HENRY

Plaintiff,

v.

CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC, d/b/a  
PA CORPORATE CERTIFICATES

BRIAN CAPOBIANCO, as OWNER of  
CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC

DEAN G. MARSHLACK, as OWNER of  
CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC

DAVID MARSHLACK, as OWNER of  
CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC

Defendants.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

CIVIL ACTION – EQUITY

**VERIFICATION**

I, Laura I. Pittini, hereby state that I am a Consumer Protection Agent with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection, and am authorized to make this verification on behalf of the Plaintiff in the within action. I hereby verify that the facts set forth in the foregoing Complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief.

I understand that the statements contained herein are subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date: 12/20/2024

Laura Pittini  
Laura I. Pittini  
Consumer Protection Agent

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF  
DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
CIVIL ACTION – EQUITY

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
by Attorney General MICHELLE A. HENRY

Plaintiff,

v.

CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC, d/b/a  
PA CORPORATE CERTIFICATES

BRIAN CAPOBIANCO, as OWNER of  
CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC

DEAN G. MARSHLACK, as OWNER of  
CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC

DAVID MARSHLACK, as OWNER of  
CORPORATE CERTIFICATES, LLC

Defendants.

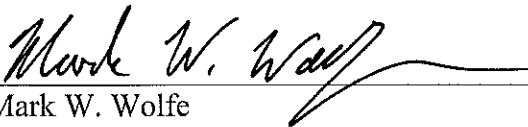
No. \_\_\_\_\_

CIVIL ACTION – EQUITY

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Date: 12/20/24

By:   
Mark W. Wolfe  
Deputy Attorney General  
PA Attorney I.D. No. 327807  
Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General  
Strawberry Square, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Telephone: 717-772-3558  
Email: mwolfe@attorneygeneral.gov  
Attorney for Plaintiff

**EXHIBIT A**

**Pennsylvania Department of State**  
Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations  
PO Box 8722 | Harrisburg, PA 17105-8722  
T: 717-787-1057  
[dos.pa.gov/BusinessCharities](https://dos.pa.gov/BusinessCharities)

**Regarding:** [REDACTED]  
**Request Type:** Subsistence Certificate **Issuance Date:** January 28, 2024  
**Request No.:** [REDACTED] **File No.:** [REDACTED]  
**Receipt No.:** [REDACTED]  
**Filing Type:** Domestic Limited Liability Company  
**Filing Subtype:** Limited Liability Company  
**Initial Filing Date:** January 02, 2024  
**Status:** Active

**TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:**

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT

[REDACTED]  
is currently subsisting on the records of the Department of State as of the issuance date herein.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY THAT this Subsistence Certificate shall not imply that all fees, taxes and penalties owed to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are paid.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand and caused the seal  
of my office to be affixed, the day and year  
above written

**Albert Schmidt**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Verify this certificate online at [www.file.dos.pa.gov](https://www.file.dos.pa.gov)

# **EXHIBIT B**

# 2023 CERTIFICATE OF SUBSISTENCE REQUEST FORM

Dauphin County Prothonotary E-Filed - 20 Dec 2024 10:09:35 AM  
Case Number: 2024 CD 00534

PA Corporate Certificates  
120 S 21st St STE 504  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

QUESTIONS?



PLEASE EMAIL:

**PACS@corporatecertificates.com**  
**OR CALL TOLL FREE**  
**1-800-226-6952**

**IMPORTANT! FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY WHEN COMPLETING THIS FORM. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.**

**Key Code:** PA-9851522-77

**Notice Date:**  
10/13/2023

**PLEASE RESPOND BY:**  
10/27/2023

**Business Address:**



Congratulations on registering your business with the State of Pennsylvania. Your Articles have been filed with the secretary of state and are complete. You have one step left in order to buy your optional Certificate of Subsistence from Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates.

**Please confirm the accuracy of the information below for your Pennsylvania Certificate of Subsistence.**

A Pennsylvania Certificate of Subsistence is issued by the Secretary of State and may be required for loans, to renew business licenses, or for tax or other business purposes. Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates is not affiliated with any government or state agency and this notice is a solicitation for your business. The Certificate of Subsistence shows the official evidence of an entity's existence and provides a statement of an entity's status, current legal name and date of formation. The Certificate of Subsistence bears the official seal of the Pennsylvania Secretary of State. Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates will mail a hard copy of your Certificate of Subsistence to your business address.

**Business Information:** Professional  
Date of Registration: 10/06/2023  
Certificate of Subsistence Fee: \$102.50

## Step 1: Please Confirm Business Name & Address Are Correct

**Identification:**

## Step 2: Contact Information - Do NOT Skip This Step! Email & Contact Number Required for Processing

Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

## Step 3: Payment - Select Payment Method & Double Check Payment Information.



CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED  
IN THE AMOUNT OF: \$102.50

Please make your check or money order payable to:

**PA Corporate Certificates**  
120 S 21st St STE 504  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

*PLEASE ALLOW UP TO FOUR WEEKS FOR  
PROCESSING AND RETURN OF DOCUMENT*



## Step 4: Authorization - Please Sign, Date & Return this Form with Payment Enclosed in Return Envelope Provided.

Signature:

Date:



# 2023 CERTIFICATE OF SUBSISTENCE REQUEST FORM

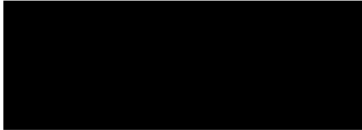
**PA Corporate Certificates**  
120 S 21st Street #504  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

QUESTIONS?



PLEASE EMAIL:

**PACS@corporatecertificates.com**  
**OR CALL TOLL FREE**  
**1-800-226-6952**



**IMPORTANT! FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY WHEN COMPLETING THIS FORM. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.**

**Key Code:** PA-8527841-77

**Notice Date:**  
6/26/2023

**PLEASE RESPOND BY:**  
7/10/2023

**Business Address:**



Congratulations on registering your business with the State of Pennsylvania. Your Articles have been filed with the secretary of state and are complete. You have one step left in order to buy your optional Certificate of Subsistence from Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates. **Please confirm the accuracy of the information below for your Pennsylvania Certificate of Subsistence.**

A Pennsylvania Certificate of Subsistence is issued by the Secretary of State and may be required for loans, to renew business licenses, or for tax or other business purposes. Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates is not affiliated with any government or state agency and this notice is a solicitation for your business. The Certificate of Subsistence shows the official evidence of an entity's existence and provides a statement of an entity's status, current legal name and date of formation. The Certificate of Subsistence bears the official seal of the Pennsylvania Secretary of State. Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates will mail a hard copy of your Certificate of Subsistence to your business address.

**Business Information:** Limited Liability Company  
Date of Registration: 6/20/2023  
Certificate of Subsistence Fee: \$102.50

**Step 1: Please Confirm Business Name & Address Are Correct**



**Identification:**



**Step 2: Contact Information - Do NOT Skip This Step! Email & Contact Number Required for Processing**

Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

**Step 3: Payment - Select Payment Method & Double Check Payment Information.**



CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED  
IN THE AMOUNT OF: \$102.50

Please make your check or money order payable to:

**PA Corporate Certificates**  
120 S 21st Street #504  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

*PLEASE ALLOW UP TO FOUR WEEKS FOR  
PROCESSING AND RETURN OF DOCUMENT*



**Step 4: Authorization - Please Sign, Date & Return this Form with Payment Enclosed in Return Envelope Provided.**

Signature:

Date:



# 2024 CERTIFICATE OF SUBSISTENCE REQUEST FORM

Dauphin County Prothonotary E-Filed: 20 Dec 2024 10:09:35 AM  
Case Number: 2024-CV-08528

PA Corporate Certificates  
120 S 21st St STE 504  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

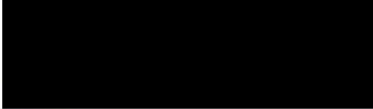

QUESTIONS?



PLEASE EMAIL:

**PACS@corporatecertificates.com**  
**OR CALL TOLL FREE**  
**1-800-226-6952**



**IMPORTANT! FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY WHEN COMPLETING THIS FORM. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.**

Key Code: PA-12016355-77	Notice Date: 04/17/2024	PLEASE RESPOND BY: 05/01/2024
Business Address: 		

Congratulations on registering your business with the State of Pennsylvania. Your Articles have been filed with the secretary of state and are complete. You have one step left in order to buy your optional Certificate of Subsistence from Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates. **Please confirm the accuracy of the information below for your Pennsylvania Certificate of Subsistence.** A Pennsylvania Certificate of Subsistence is issued by the Secretary of State and may be required for loans, to renew business licenses, or for tax or other business purposes. Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates is not affiliated with any government or state agency and this notice is a solicitation for your business. The Certificate of Subsistence shows the official evidence of an entity's existence and provides a statement of an entity's status, current legal name and date of formation. The Certificate of Subsistence bears the official seal of the Pennsylvania Secretary of State. Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates will mail a hard copy of your Certificate of Subsistence to your business address.

**Business Information:** Limited Liability Company  
Date of Registration: 04/12/2024  
Certificate of Subsistence Fee: \$102.50

## Step 1: Please Confirm Business Name & Address Are Correct

	Identification: 
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## Step 2: Contact Information - Do NOT Skip This Step! Email & Contact Number Required for Processing

Name:	Email:	Phone Number:
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## Step 3: Payment - Select Payment Method & Double Check Payment Information.

☐ CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED  
IN THE AMOUNT OF: \$102.50

Please make your check or money order payable to:

PA Corporate Certificates  
120 S 21st St STE 504  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

PLEASE ALLOW UP TO FOUR WEEKS FOR  
PROCESSING AND RETURN OF DOCUMENT



## Step 4: Authorization - Please Sign, Date & Return this Form with Payment Enclosed in Return Envelope Provided.

Signature:	Date:
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**EXHIBIT C**

equivalent issued by a foreign jurisdiction) is also required.

Businesses should be extremely wary of providing this personal information to any company (other than a trusted law firm or established service company) offering to make Beneficial Ownership Information reports. Again, Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) reports are made directly with FinCEN at <https://www.fincen.gov/boi>. There is also no filing fee for the BOI reports made with FinCEN.

## June 14, 2023 – PA Corporate Certificates

The Pennsylvania Department of State has been made aware of [2023 Certificate of Subsistence Request Forms](#) that are targeting recently registered Pennsylvania businesses from a bogus company calling itself "PA Corporate Certificates." The form congratulates companies on registering their business with the State of Pennsylvania and goes on to suggest that "you have one step left in order to buy your optional Certificate of Subsistence from Pennsylvania Corporate Certificate," by paying \$102.50 to the company to procure the certificate. Companies are informed that they may need the certificate for loans, renewing business licenses, or for tax or other business purposes.

This is a partial SCAM. There is no company registered to do business in Pennsylvania by the name of "PA Corporate Certificates" or "Pennsylvania Corporate Certificates." The address used by this company is that of a mailbox/UPS store located in Philadelphia and the phone number on the mailing (1-800-226-6952) goes to a call center located outside of Pennsylvania.

The mailing contains some incorrect and overbroad information. The Pennsylvania Department of State does issue "Certificates of Subsistence" or "Subsistence Certificates" to domestic filing associations and "Certificates of Registration" to registered foreign associations. The cost of such certificates obtained directly from the Department of State is \$40 and these certificates are generally available by email within two hours of [ordering online](#).

The Department is alerting all business entities of this solicitation to prevent businesses from paying much more than is needed for a Subsistence Certificate or a Certificate of Registration by using a bogus intermediary like PA Corporate Certificate. This may also add time to a request. While a proof of registration with the Department of State (such as certified copies of filed documents or a Subsistence Certificate) may be required for legitimate business purposes such as loans or renewing business licenses, typically the lender or regulator requires that the copies or certificates are obtained close in time to when they are needed.