

STATE OF OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Division of Financial Institutions
Consumer Finance

In the matter of:)	Case No. M2006-9992883
)	
JEROME E. TUFF)	Notice of Intent to Deny Loan Officer License Application
1591 Ferris Road)	&
Columbus, Ohio 43224)	Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing
)	

JURISDICTION

The Ohio Department of Commerce, by and through the Superintendent of the Division of Financial Institutions ("Division"), is charged with the responsibility of administering and enforcing the Ohio Mortgage Broker Act, codified in Ohio Revised Code ("R.C.") Chapter 1322. In accordance therewith, the Division is accountable for the licensing of individuals as residential mortgage loan officers.

RESPONDENT

JEROME E. TUFF ("Respondent") has applied to the Division for a loan officer license. His address of record is 1591 Ferris Road, Columbus, Ohio 43224, and his date of birth is September 19, 1959. Respondent's employer of record is Abundant Life Mortgage & Financial Services, Incorporated, 1616 Brice Road, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

In accordance with sections 1322.041 and 1322.10 of the R.C., and R.C. Chapter 119, the Division intends to DENY Respondent's loan officer license application.

BASIS FOR PROPOSED ACTION

The Division has conducted an investigation of Respondent, pursuant to R.C. 1322.031(B), and has found the following:

- A. In or around 1995, in the Municipal Court of Franklin County, Ohio, Respondent was convicted of Soliciting Prostitution, a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- B. In or around 1999, in the United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Respondent was convicted of Issuing Postal Money Orders Without Paying Or Receiving Payment, a felony.
- C. On or around March 20, 2002, Respondent attested in a sworn statement that information provided about his criminal background on the loan officer license application submitted to the Division was complete and truthful, when it was not.
- D. On or around April 8, 2002, Respondent provided incomplete or untruthful information about Respondent's criminal background to the Division in an attempt to obtain a loan officer license.
- E. On June 1, 2005, the Division issued an Order denying Respondent's 2002 loan officer license application. This Order was upheld on appeal by the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas in case number 05CV-6549.

As a result of the findings listed above, the Division has determined that:

1. Respondent's actions, as listed above, show that Respondent has not proven that Respondent is honest, truthful, and of good reputation, and that there is no basis in fact for believing that Respondent will not commit another criminal offense involving passing bad checks, or any criminal offense involving money or securities. See R.C. sections 1322.031(A)(2) and 1322.041(A)(3).
2. Respondent's actions, as listed above, show Respondent's character and general fitness do not command the confidence of the public and warrant the belief that the business will be operated honestly and fairly in compliance with the purposes of the Ohio Mortgage Broker Act. See R.C. 1322.041(A)(5).
3. Respondent's actions listed in Paragraphs B and C violated R.C. 1322.07(A), which prohibits a loan officer applicant from "mak[ing] any substantial misrepresentation in any registration or license application[.]"
4. Respondent's actions listed in Paragraphs B and C violated R.C. 1322.07(B), which prohibits a loan officer applicant from "[m]ak[ing] false or misleading statements of a material fact, [or] omissions of statement required by state law[.]"
5. Respondent's actions listed in Paragraphs B and C violated R.C. 1322.07(C), which prohibits a loan officer applicant from "[e]ngage[ing] in conduct that constitutes improper, fraudulent, or dishonest dealings."

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING ON PROPOSED ACTION

Therefore, pursuant to R.C. Chapters 1322 and 119, Respondent is hereby notified that thirty-one (31) days from the date of the mailing of this Notice, the Superintendent intends to issue an order denying Respondent a loan officer license under the Ohio Mortgage Broker Act.

Respondent is further notified, pursuant to R.C. Chapter 119, that Respondent is entitled to a hearing on this matter. If Respondent desires to request a hearing, the request must be made in writing, and must be received in the offices of the Ohio Division of Financial Institutions within thirty (30) days of the time of the mailing of this Notice. Hearing requests should be addressed: Ohio Division of Financial Institutions, Attn: Jason K. Wright, Consumer Finance Associate Counsel, 77 South High Street, 21st Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6120.

At the hearing, Respondent may appear in person, by Respondent's attorney, or by such other representative as is permitted to practice before the Agency, or Respondent may present its position, arguments, or contentions in writing, and, at the hearing, may present evidence and examine witnesses appearing for and against Respondent.

If the Ohio Division of Financial Institutions does not receive a written request for a hearing in its offices within thirty (30) days of the time of the mailing of this Notice, the Superintendent will issue an order denying Respondent a loan officer license.

Signed and sealed this 27th day of July 2006.

ROBERT M. GRIESER

Deputy Superintendent for Consumer Finance
Division of Financial Institutions
Ohio Department of Commerce