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**BEFORE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO**

In re Mortgage Loan Originator
License Application of:

JOHN PATRICK DEGROOT, JR.,
NMLS ID No. 1992867,

Applicant.

Docket No. 2021-16-52

**ORDER DENYING MORTGAGE LOAN
ORIGINATOR LICENSE APPLICATION AND
NOTICE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO
REQUEST A HEARING**

The Director of the State of Idaho, Department of Finance (Director), pursuant to the Idaho Residential Mortgage Practices Act, Idaho Code § 26-31-101 et seq. (the Act), and in particular §§ 26-31-306(1)(d) and (h) and 26-31-313(1)(a) and (b) of the Act, hereby issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Denying Mortgage Loan Originator License Application, and Notice of the Opportunity for a Hearing (Order).

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Applicant, John Patrick DeGroot, Jr., a resident of the state of Arizona, holds NMLS number 1992867 and applied for an Idaho Mortgage Loan Originator (MLO) license by filing an individual Form MU4 through the online Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System (NMLSR or

NMLS). This application was attested to by the Applicant on March 11, 2021 and submitted on the Applicant's behalf by Chelsea Johnson of loanDepot.com, LLC on March 15, 2021.

2. The application Form MU4, seeks information about an applicant's qualifications to be licensed as a mortgage loan originator. Section 6 of the application form is entitled "Disclosure Questions" and it consists of a series of questions that inquire into an applicant's history regarding financial, criminal, civil, judicial and regulatory matters. Pertinent to the Applicant's qualifications is question (D): "Do you have any unsatisfied judgments or liens against you?" The applicant responded with a "no" to this disclosure question.

3. Consistent with normal practice, a Department examiner conducted an assessment of the Applicant using various sources of public information to determine if the Applicant demonstrates sufficient financial responsibility, character, and general fitness in order to be licensed as a mortgage loan originator.¹

4. The examiner obtained a public record background information report through LexisNexis that reflected the Applicant has an outstanding judgment entered against him. Following this, the examiner obtained a copy of the Default Judgment against the Applicant in favor of Midland Funding LLC, Case No. CC2011253190RC, which was "done in open court" on April 6, 2012, in the Desert Ridge Justice Court, Maricopa County, State of Arizona. The judgment was entered for the principal balance of \$2,757.53, plus interest at the rate of 10.00% per year from the date of default, which was August 30, 2008, "...until the date of judgment, and thereafter at the rate of 4.25%, minus any payments made..." Also included in the judgment

¹ Conducted pursuant to Part 3 of the Act titled "The Idaho Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act" (Idaho S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act), Idaho Code § 26-31-306.

were court costs of \$125.00 and attorney fees of \$990.74, plus interest at the rate of 4.25% per year from the date of judgment until paid.

5. The Department has no evidence indicating that the judgment described above has been satisfied and/or released.

6. The Applicant's negative response to the Form MU4 application disclosure question (D) is a material misrepresentation, and the failure to provide details of the outstanding judgement described above constitutes a material omission.

7. On July 8, 2021 the Department provided the Applicant notice of an intent to deny the application within approximately one month based on the information set forth above unless the Applicant was able to provide documentation on or before August 5, 2021 to satisfy the Department that disclosure of the outstanding judgment was not required. The notice alternatively provided the Applicant the opportunity to withdraw the application. The Applicant failed to provide the requisite documentation or withdraw the application by the stated deadline.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8. The allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 7 above are fully incorporated herein by this reference.

9. Idaho Code § 26-31-304 provides that an individual shall not engage in the business of a mortgage loan originator without first obtaining, and maintaining annually, a license.

10. Idaho Code § 26-31-305(1) provides that an applicant for a mortgage loan originator license must apply through the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System (NMLS), in a form required by the Director of the Idaho Department of Finance (Director).

11. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 26-31-306(1)(h), before an application for license can be approved, an applicant must provide all information on the application as required per Idaho Code § 26-31-305. Idaho Code § 26-31-305(10) further provides that an applicant shall make complete disclosure of all information as set forth in the application.

12. Idaho Code § 26-31-306(1)(d) provides that the Director shall not issue a mortgage loan originator license under the Act unless the Director makes a finding that an applicant has demonstrated financial responsibility, character and general fitness sufficient to command the confidence of the community and to warrant a determination that the mortgage loan originator will operate honestly, fairly, and efficiently within the purposes of the Act.

13. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 26-31-313(1)(b), the Director may deny a license if an applicant withholds information or makes a material misstatement in an application for a license.

14. The Applicant made a material misstatement of fact in his application, which is grounds to deny his application for licensure. He answered a question inaccurately and failed to disclose the outstanding judgment. The false answer to disclosure question (D) and failure to disclose the outstanding judgment prohibits the Director from issuing a license to the Applicant pursuant to Idaho Code § 26-31-306(1)(d) and (h).

15. The Director finds it appropriate to deny the application because the Applicant's failure to provide complete and accurate information on the Form MU4 regarding the outstanding judgment demonstrates that the Applicant lacks the appropriate character and fitness sufficient to command the confidence of the community and to warrant a determination that the mortgage loan originator will operate honestly, fairly, and efficiently within the purposes of the Act and demonstrate a failure to provide complete information in the application as

required by Idaho Code § 26-31-305. Because the Director cannot make the requisite findings under Idaho Code § 26-31-306(1)(d) and (h), it is appropriate to deny the Applicant's request for an Idaho mortgage loan originator license, pursuant to Idaho Code § 26-31-313(1).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, BASED ON THE FOREGOING FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND PURSUANT TO IDAHO CODE §§ 26-31-313(1)(a) and (b), IT IS ORDERED THAT THE APPLICATION FOR A MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR LICENSE APPLICATION ATTESTED TO BY JOHN PATRICK DEGROOT, JR., NMLS #1992867, ON MARCH 11, 2021, AND SUBMITTED ON HIS BEHALF BY CHELSEA JOHNSON OF LOANDEPOT.COM, LLC ON MARCH 15, 2021, IS HEREBY DENIED.

NOTICE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A HEARING

16. The Applicant is HEREBY NOTIFIED that the foregoing ORDER DENYING MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR LICENSE APPLICATION is a final order of the Director denying the license application, subject to the Applicant's right to timely file a request for a hearing on the question of his qualifications for a mortgage loan originator license under the Act, pursuant to Idaho Code § 26-31-305(6)(a). Such request for a hearing must be in writing and submitted to the Department within fifteen (15) days after the service of this Order. A copy of the request for hearing shall be served on the following:

Erin Van Engelen
Consumer Finance Bureau Chief
Idaho Department of Finance
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0031

A copy of the request for contested case and hearing shall also be served on the Department's counsel in this matter:

Thomas A. Donovan
Deputy Attorney General
Idaho Department of Finance
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0031

Alternatively, the Applicant may email the request for hearing to: CFLegal@finance.idaho.gov.

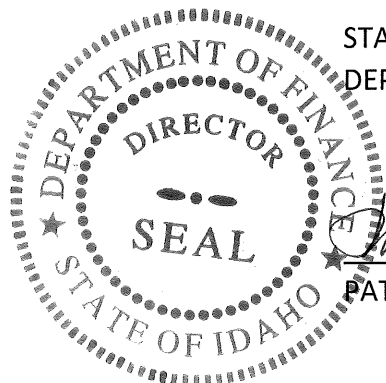
17. If the Applicant timely requests a hearing, the Director of the Department, or a Hearing Officer acting on the Director's behalf, will notify the Applicant of further steps including the date, time and place of the hearing.

18. Any hearing and subsequent proceedings in this matter will be conducted in accordance with the Idaho Administrative Procedure Act, Idaho Code § 67-5201 *et seq.* and the Idaho Rules of Administrative Procedure (IDAPA 04.11.01).

19. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 26-31-305(6), if a hearing is held, the Applicant shall reimburse, pro rata, the Director for her reasonable and necessary expenses incurred as a result of the hearing.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 30th day of August 2021.



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE



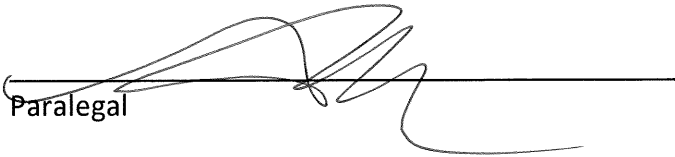
PATRICIA R. PERKINS, Director

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 30th day of August 2021, I caused a true and correct fully-executed copy of the foregoing ORDER DENYING MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR LICENSE APPLICATION AND NOTICE OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING to be served on the following by the designated means:

John Patrick Degroot, Jr.
2732 W Patagonia Way
Anthem, AZ 85086

- U.S. mail, postage prepaid
- certified mail
- facsimile _____
- email: jdegroot@loandepot.com


Paralegal