

STATE OF ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

DIVISION OF BANKING

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
) No. 2023-MLO-02
MICHAEL JEFFREY STRAUSS)
IL MLO License No. 031.0080195;)
NMLS ID 1661020)
)

**ORDER SUSPENDING
MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR LICENSE**

The DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION, Division of Banking (“Department”), through further review of **MICHAEL JEFFREY STRAUSS’S** (“**STRAUSS**”) application for an Illinois Mortgage Loan Originator (“MLO”) license and having documented violations of the Residential Mortgage License Act of 1987 (“Act”) [205 ILCS 635] and the rules promulgated thereunder (“Rules”) [38 Ill. Adm. Code 1050], hereby issues this order for violations of the Act and Rules.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

1. Section 4-1(h-2) of the Act provides that the Director of the Division of Banking’s (“Director”) functions, powers, and duties shall include the following: to address any inquiries to any licensee, or the officers thereof, in relation to its activities and conditions, or any other matter connected with its affairs, and it shall be the duty of any licensee or person so addressed, to promptly reply in writing to such inquiries. The Director may also require reports from any licensee at any time the Director may deem desirable.
2. Section 7-11 of the Act authorizes the Department to suspend or take other disciplinary action against an MLO license for violations of the Act or any other applicable law.

FACTUAL FINDINGS

3. STRAUSS is an Illinois MLO holding License No. 031.0080195 (“License”) issued on December 28, 2022.
4. The Department, upon further review of STRAUSS’S MLO license application, became concerned that not all pertinent information regarding STRAUSS’S mortgage industry background had been disclosed.

5. The Department, to obtain this pertinent additional information, sent to STRAUSS a request for information on January 12, 2023 (“RFI”).
6. The RFI requested written responses and documentation from STRAUSS regarding previous companies that STRAUSS owned or controlled, federal and state lawsuits, and orders from other state and federal agencies.
7. The response to the RFI was due to the Department on or before January 19, 2023.
8. STRAUSS failed to respond to the RFI by the January 19, 2023, due date.
9. The Department subsequently issued a Rule to Show Cause to STRAUSS on January 23, 2023 (“RTSC”), giving him an opportunity to present proof that he was no longer in violation of section 4-1(h-2) of the Act, and to provide the Department a complete response to the RFI by January 30, 2023, or an Order of Suspension would be issued.
10. As of January 31, 2023, the Department still has not received a response from STRAUSS regarding the RFI or the RTSC.

LEGAL CONCLUSIONS

11. STRAUSS is in violation of Section 4-1(h-2) of the Act.

NOW IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT,

- . The Department **SUSPENDS MICHAEL JEFFREY STRAUSS’S** Mortgage Loan Originator License, MLO license No. 031.0042688, pursuant to 7-11 of the Act, until he responds to the RFI to the satisfaction of the Department.

ORDERED THIS 1 DAY OF February 2023

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
DIVISION OF BANKING



CHASSE REHWINKEL
DIRECTOR

You are hereby notified that this Order is an administrative decision. Pursuant to Section 4-12 of the Illinois Residential Mortgage License Act [205 ILCS 635/4-12] and the rules promulgated thereunder on Hearings Before the Division of Banking and Division of Financial Institutions [38 Ill. Adm. Code 100.5 *et seq.*], an affected party may file a petition for a hearing on an administrative decision by the Director. The petition for a hearing must be filed within 10 days after service of this Order by mail to the Department at 555 W. Monroe St., Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60201, Attn: Angela Alexandrakis with an electronic copy by email to Angela.Alexandrakis@illinois.gov. The petition for hearing must be in writing and set forth the petitioner's license number, docket number of the administrative decision that resulted in discipline, and date of the administrative decision, pursuant to 38 Ill. Adm. Code 100.30(c). An MLO that requests a hearing shall pay a \$250 nonrefundable fee to the Department in accordance with 38 Ill. Adm. Code 1050.210(f). After receipt of a properly completed and timely petition for hearing, a case will be docketed and notice sent to the petitioner setting forth the date, time, and place of the hearing. Absent a petition for a hearing, this Order shall constitute a final administrative decision subject to the Administrative Review Law [735 ILCS 5/3-101 *et seq.*].