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8  
9 BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS OVERSIGHT  
10 OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 In the Matter of: ) CFL LICENSE NO.: 60DBO-67442  
12 THE COMMISSIONER OF BUSINESS ) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT  
13 OVERSIGHT, )  
14 Complainant, )  
15 v. )  
16 EFINITY FINANCIAL INC., )  
17 Respondent. )  
18 )  
19 )

20 This Settlement Agreement is entered into between the Commissioner of Business Oversight  
21 (Commissioner) and Respondent Efinity Financial Inc. (Respondent or Efinity Financial) and is  
22 made with respect to the following facts:

23 **I.**

24 **RECITALS**

25 A. The Commissioner has jurisdiction over the licensing and regulation of persons and  
26 entities engaged in the business of finance lending or brokering under the California Financing Law  
27 (CFL) (Fin. Code, § 22000 *et seq.*).  
28

1 B. Respondent is a corporation with a principal place of business at 1901 Central Drive,  
2 Suite 612, Bedford, Texas 76021.

3 C. Respondent is licensed as a finance lender and broker under the CFL with license  
4 number 60DBO-67442.

5 D. In accordance with Financial Code section 22159, CFL licensees must file an annual  
6 report with the Commissioner by March 15 of each year (Annual Report).

7 E. On January 16, 2018, the Commissioner notified CFL licensees of the March 15,  
8 2018 deadline to file their annual reports by sending notice to the email address of each CFL  
9 licensee established pursuant to the Commissioner's Order on Electronic Communications, dated  
10 November 22, 2013. The notification admonished licensees that the Commissioner could assess  
11 penalties and summarily revoke CFL license(s) for untimely filing or failing to file pursuant to  
12 Financial Code section 22715.

13 F. On February 20, 2018, the Commissioner again notified CFL licensees of the March  
14 15, 2018 deadline to file their annual reports by sending notice to the email address each CFL  
15 licensee established pursuant to the Commissioner's Order on Electronic Communications, dated  
16 November 22, 2013. The notification again warned that the Commissioner could assess penalties  
17 and summarily revoke licenses for untimely filing or failing to file pursuant to Financial Code  
18 section 22715.

19 G. As of March 19, 2018, Respondent had not filed its Annual Report with the  
20 Commissioner. As a result, the Commissioner issued a notice letter to Respondent on March 19,  
21 2018, advising Respondent that it should file its annual report by or before April 6, 2017 or else its  
22 license would be summarily revoked pursuant to Financial Code section 22715 (Notice Letter).

23 H. As of April 6, 2018, Respondent had not filed its Annual Report with the  
24 Commissioner as directed in the Notice Letter. As a result, on April 11, 2018, the Commissioner  
25 issued an Order Summarily Revoking California Finance Lenders License Pursuant to Financial  
26 Code Section 22715 for CFL License Number 60DBO-67442 (Summary Revocation Order).

27 I. Upon receiving the Summary Revocation Order, Respondent timely notified the  
28 Commissioner that Respondent was requesting a hearing on the Summary Revocation Order.

1 J. On May 18, 2018, Respondent submitted its Annual Report, which was due on March  
2 15, 2018, 46 business days late. Pursuant to Financial Code section 22715, the maximum penalty  
3 that may be imposed for filing 46 business days late is \$21,000.00 (\$100.00 per business day for the  
4 first five business days and \$500.00 per business day thereafter up to a maximum of \$25,000.00).

5 K. In connection with these proceedings, Respondent represented to the Commissioner  
6 that it had taken no new applications under its license.

7 L. The Commissioner finds that entering into this Settlement Agreement is in the public  
8 interest and consistent with the purposes fairly intended by the policies and provisions of the CFL.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, and the terms and conditions set  
10 forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

11 **II.**

12 **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

13 1. Purpose. The parties intend to resolve this matter for the purpose of judicial economy  
14 and expediency and without the uncertainty and expense of a hearing or other litigation.

15 2. Waiver of Hearing Rights. Respondent hereby agrees to withdraw its request for an  
16 administrative hearing on the Summary Revocation Order. Respondent acknowledges its right under  
17 the CFL to an administrative hearing on the Summary Revocation Order and hereby waives such  
18 right to a hearing and to any reconsideration, appeal, injunction or other review that may be afforded  
19 under the Financial Code; Administrative Procedure Act, including Government Code section  
20 11415.60, subdivision (b); Code of Civil Procedure; or any other provision of law. By waiving such  
21 rights, Respondent effectively consents to the finality of the Summary Revocation Order.

22 3. Order Rescinding Summary Revocation Order. The Commissioner hereby rescinds  
23 the Summary Revocation Order, which had been issued on April 11, 2018.

24 4. Administrative Penalty. Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty of \$2,500.00  
25 no later than 30 days after the effective date of this Settlement Agreement as defined in paragraph  
26 18. The penalty must be made payable in the form of a cashier's check or Automated Clearing  
27 House deposit to the Department of Business Oversight and transmitted to the attention of  
28 Accounting – Litigation, at the Department of Business Oversight, 1515 K Street, Suite 200,

1 Sacramento, California 95814. Notice of the payment must be concurrently sent to Senior Counsel  
2 Sophia C. Kim, Department of Business Oversight, 320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 750, Los Angeles,  
3 California 90013.

4 5. Failure to Pay Administrative Penalty. If Respondent fails to comply with paragraph  
5 4, the Commissioner may summarily suspend it from engaging in business under its license until it  
6 provides evidence of compliance to the Commissioner's satisfaction. Respondent hereby waives any  
7 notice or hearing rights afforded under the Administrative Procedure Act, including Government  
8 Code section 11415.60, subdivision (b); Code of Civil Procedure; or any other provision of law to  
9 contest the summary suspension contemplated by this paragraph.

10 6. Full and Final Resolution. Except as stated in paragraph 5, this Settlement  
11 Agreement is intended to constitute a full and final resolution of the matter described in it. The  
12 Commissioner will not bring any further action or proceeding concerning the matter unless she  
13 discovers violations by Respondent that do not form the basis for this Settlement Agreement,  
14 including violations knowingly concealed from the Commissioner.

15 7. Commissioner's Duties. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement limits the  
16 Commissioner's ability to assist any other government agency with any action brought by that  
17 agency against Respondent, including an action based on any of the acts, omissions, or events  
18 described in this Settlement Agreement.

19 8. Independent Legal Advice. Each of the parties represents, warrants, and agrees that it  
20 has had an opportunity to seek independent advice from its attorney(s) and/or representatives with  
21 respect to the advisability of executing this Settlement Agreement.

22 9. Reliance. Each of the parties represents, warrants, and agrees that in executing this  
23 Settlement Agreement it has relied solely on the statement set forth herein and has had the  
24 opportunity to seek the legal advice of its own counsel. Each of the parties further represents,  
25 warrants, and agrees that in executing this Settlement Agreement it has placed no reliance on any  
26 statement, representation, or promise of any other party, or any other person or entity not expressly  
27 set forth herein, or upon the failure of any party or any other person or entity to make any statement,  
28 representation, or disclosure of anything whatsoever. The parties have included this clause: (1) to

1 preclude any claim that any party was in any way fraudulently induced to execute this Settlement  
2 Agreement; and (2) to preclude the introduction of parol evidence to vary, interpret, supplement, or  
3 contradict the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

4 10. Full Integration. This Settlement Agreement is the final written expression and the  
5 complete and exclusive statement of all the agreements, conditions, promises, representations, and  
6 covenants between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and supersedes all prior or  
7 contemporaneous agreements, negotiations, representations, understandings, and discussions  
8 between and among the parties, their respective representatives, and any other person or entity, with  
9 respect to the subject matter covered hereby. The parties have included this clause to preclude the  
10 introduction of parol evidence to vary, interpret, supplement, or contradict the terms of this  
11 Settlement Agreement.

12 11. No Presumption Against Drafter. In that the parties have had the opportunity to draft,  
13 review, and edit the language of this Settlement Agreement, no presumption for or against any party  
14 arising out of drafting all or any part of this Settlement Agreement will be applied in any action  
15 relating to, connected to, or involving this Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, the parties waive the  
16 benefit of Civil Code section 1654 and any successor or amended statutes, providing that in cases of  
17 uncertainty, language of a contract should be interpreted most strongly against the party who caused  
18 the uncertainty to exist.

19 12. Voluntary Agreement. Respondent hereby enters into this Settlement Agreement  
20 voluntarily and without coercion and acknowledges that no promises, threats, or assurances have  
21 been made by the Commissioner or any officer, or agent thereof, about this Settlement Agreement.

22 13. Waiver, Amendments, and Modifications. No waiver, amendment, or modification of  
23 this Settlement Agreement will be valid or binding unless it is in writing and signed by all parties  
24 affected by it. Waiver of a provision of this Settlement Agreement will not be deemed a waiver of  
25 any other provision.

26 14. Counterparts. The parties agree that this Settlement Agreement may be executed in  
27 one or more separate counterparts, each of which when so executed, shall be deemed an original. A  
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1 fax or electronic mail signature shall be deemed the same as an original signature. Such counterparts  
2 shall together constitute and be one and the same instrument.

3 15. Public Record. Respondent acknowledges that the Settlement Agreement is public  
4 record.

5 16. Headings. The headings to the paragraphs of this Settlement Agreement are inserted  
6 for convenience only and will not be deemed a part hereof or affect the construction or interpretation  
7 of the provisions hereof.

8 17. Governing Law. This Settlement Agreement shall be construed and enforced in  
9 accordance with and governed by California law.

10 18. Effective Date. This Settlement Agreement will become effective on the date it is  
11 signed by all parties and delivered by the Commissioner to Efinity Financial Inc. by electronic mail  
12 at Kathy.Braungardt@efinitygroup.com.

13 19. Settlement Authority. Each party represents that the person signing this Settlement  
14 Agreement on its behalf has the authority and capacity to do so.

15  
16 Dated: 6/5/18

JAN LYNN OWEN  
Commissioner of Business Oversight

17  
18  
19 By \_\_\_\_\_  
20 MARY ANN SMITH  
21 Deputy Commissioner  
22 Enforcement Division

23 Dated: 6/4/18

24 By \_\_\_\_\_  
25 TORY D. PIETZSCH  
26 President  
27 EFINITY FINANCIAL INC.  
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