

OCCC CASE NO. L20-00183

IN THE MATTER OF:	§	BEFORE THE
	§	
MASTER FILE NO.: 11462	§	OFFICE OF CONSUMER
PREMIER OPTION CREDIT, LLC.	§	
d/b/a SUNBELT JEWELRY & LOAN	§	CREDIT COMMISSIONER
3411 ELLA BLVD.	§	
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77018	§	STATE OF TEXAS

**ORDER TO ENSURE TIMELY FILING OF  
PAWNSHOP EMPLOYEE LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

The Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner (“OCCC”) issues this Order to Ensure Timely Filing of Pawnshop Employee License Applications against Premier Option Credit, LLC. d/b/a Sunbelt Jewelry & Loan (“Sunbelt Jewelry & Loan”) based on the violations of law described below.<sup>1</sup>

**Statement of Facts and Law**

Sunbelt Jewelry & Loan is licensed by the OCCC as a pawnshop under Chapter 371 of the Texas Finance Code. Sunbelt Jewelry & Loan operates under master file number 11462. Sunbelt Jewelry & Loan’s compliance officer is Wilber A. Vanegas, and its designated contact address is 3411 Ella Blvd., Houston, Texas 77018.

A pawnbroker may, but is not required to, participate in the pawnshop employee license program.<sup>2</sup> If a pawnbroker participates in the pawnshop employee license program, then the pawnbroker may not employ an individual to write pawn transactions unless the individual holds a pawnshop employee license, or applies for a license within 75 days after beginning employment.<sup>3</sup> An employee who works at a participating pawnshop must, as a condition of employment, apply for a license with the OCCC within 75 days after employment begins.<sup>4</sup> A pawnbroker is responsible for the acts of its employees in the conduct of pawnshop business.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208.

<sup>2</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 371.101(a).

<sup>3</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 371.101(c).

<sup>4</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 371.101(b).

<sup>5</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 371.074; 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 85.604(c)(9).

Sunbelt Jewelry & Loan has chosen to participate in the pawnshop employee license program. Sunbelt Jewelry & Loan employed each of the following individuals as a pawnshop employee for more than 75 days, without the individuals' holding or applying for a pawnshop employee license:

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Application ID Number</b>	<b>License Status</b>	<b>Application Date</b>	<b>Days Employed Before Applying</b>
Juan Meza	38692	Approved	1/22/2020	82

If the Commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that a person is violating Chapter 371 of the Texas Finance Code, the Commissioner may issue an order to cease and desist from the violation, take affirmative action, or both, to enforce compliance.<sup>6</sup>

The Commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that Sunbelt Jewelry & Loan violated Chapter 371 by employing one or more individuals to write pawn transactions for more than 75 days, without the individuals' holding or applying for a pawnshop employee license. Sunbelt Jewelry & Loan is responsible for its employees' failure to file timely pawnshop employee license applications.

**Order**

IT IS ORDERED that Premier Option Credit, LLC. d/b/a Sunbelt Jewelry & Loan:

1. comply with, and cease and desist from violating, the pawnshop employee licensing and application requirements of Section 371.101 of the Texas Finance Code; and
2. ensure that all future pawnshop employee license applications are timely filed, not later than the 75th day after the individual begins employment.

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<sup>6</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(a).

## Violation of Order

If you violate this Order, the OCCC may impose an administrative penalty of up to \$1,000 per day.<sup>7</sup> Multiple violations may also result in the suspension or revocation of your license.<sup>8</sup>

## Right to Request Hearing

You have the right to request a hearing regarding this Order.<sup>9</sup> Your request must be made in writing and sent to the OCCC not later than 30 days after you receive this Order. You must send your request to:

Matthew Nance  
Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner  
2601 N. Lamar Blvd.  
Austin, Texas 78705

If you request a hearing, a hearing on this matter will be set and conducted in accordance with Chapter 2001 of the Texas Government Code.<sup>10</sup> If you fail to request a hearing by this deadline, this Order is considered final and enforceable.<sup>11</sup>

All communications with the OCCC concerning this matter must be through Matthew Nance, Deputy General Counsel, who may be contacted by mail at 2601 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78705, by telephone at (512) 936-7660, or by email to [matthew.nance@occc.texas.gov](mailto:matthew.nance@occc.texas.gov).

Signed this 11th day of September, 2020.

/s/ Leslie Pettijohn  
Leslie L. Pettijohn  
Consumer Credit Commissioner  
State of Texas

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<sup>7</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(c).

<sup>8</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 371.251; 7 Tex. Admin. Code § 85.604(b)(4).

<sup>9</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(b).

<sup>10</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(b).

<sup>11</sup> Tex. Fin. Code § 14.208(c).

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on September 11, 2020, a true and correct copy of this Order to Ensure Timely Filing of Pawnshop Employee License Applications has been sent to Premier Option Credit, LLC. d/b/a Sunbelt Jewelry & Loan by regular mail and certified mail, return receipt requested, at:

CMRRR# 9214 8901 9403 8300 0019 2820 52

Premier Option Credit, LLC.

Attn: Wilber A. Vanegas, Compliance Officer

3411 Ella Blvd.

Houston, TX 77018

CMRRR# 9214 8901 9403 8300 0019 2820 69

Premier Option Credit, LLC.

Attn: Wilber A. Vanegas, Registered Agent

3407 Omaha Beach Ct.

Spring, TX 77388

/s/ Matthew Nance

Matthew Nance

Deputy General Counsel

Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner

State Bar No. 24074794

2601 North Lamar Blvd.

Austin, Texas 78705

(512) 936-7660

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matthew.nance@occc.texas.gov