Description of document: Complaints filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) against game shows for cheating and contestant drug use

Requested date: 19-October-2007

Released date: 16-November-2007

Posted date: 20-February-2008


Source of document: Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room 1-A836
Washington, D.C. 20554
Phone: 202-418-0440 or 202-418-0212
Fax: 202-418-2826 or 202-418-0521
E-mail: FOIA@fcc.gov

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This letter responds to your recent Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request received by the Federal Communications Commission (the "FCC" or "Commission") and assigned to the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau ("CGB") and the Enforcement Bureau ("Enforcement") by the Commission’s FOIA Office on October 19, 2007. Your request sought copies of complaints filed against a game show for cheating and complaints filed regarding game show contestants using drugs. In addition, you wanted to know whether the FCC can mandate drug testing for shows that use television airwaves. You asked for a response by October 22, 2007.

Subsequently, you were contacted by Arthur Scrutchins of CGB’s Policy Division to clarify the scope of your request and inform you that we would be unable to respond by October 22, 2007. Mr. Scrutchins also referred you to the FCC’s web site concerning your question about mandatory drug testing. In response, you stated that you still wanted to pursue your request for complaint information.

CGB and Enforcement have coordinated to provide a response to your request. CGB conducted a search of the database in which we maintain the records of informal complaints filed by, or on behalf of, consumers. We are enclosing eleven (11) complaints from that database that are responsive to your request. All personal identifying information relating to the individuals who have submitted, or are named in, the complaints has been redacted pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6 and Section 0.457(f) of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 0.457(f). A release of this information would constitute “a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy” under the Privacy Act. See 5 U.S.C. § 552a (b)(6); 47 C.F.R. § 0.457(f). In addition, certain FCC employee names have been redacted pursuant to FOIA Exemption 2 and Section 0.457(b) of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 0.457(b). Enforcement has informed CGB that a search of its records identified no records responsive to your request.

Please be advised that the Commission receives many complaints and comments that do not involve violations of the Communications Act or any FCC rule or order. Thus, the existence of a complaint filed against a particular company does not necessarily indicate wrongdoing by the company.
We are required by the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A), and Section 0.470 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 0.470, to charge FOIA requesters certain fees, depending on the classification of requesters into one of three categories defined in Section 0.466 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 0.466. The categories are: (1) commercial use requesters; (2) educational and noncommercial scientific institution requesters and requesters who are representatives of the news media; and (3) all other requesters.

you have been classified as a representative of the news media by the FOIA office. Under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A), and Section 0.470(a)(2) of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 0.470(a)(2), representatives of the news media are responsible for the payment of duplication costs beyond the first 100 pages. There is no duplication cost associated with processing your request.

If you consider this to be a denial of your FOIA request, you may file an application for review of this decision with the Commission’s Office of the General Counsel within 30 days in accordance with Section 0.461(j) of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 0.461(j).

Sincerely,

Nicole M. McGinnis
Deputy Bureau Chief
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau

Enclosure
wrote on 7/13/2006 4:27:29 PM:

To Whom It May Concern:
My name is [Redacted] and I was a recent contestant on the NBC game show "The Biggest Loser". The final episode aired Nov. 29, 2005.
I am writing to you now because the contestants were told that if we talked to anyone about the show we could be sued for a million dollars. I believe it is time to tell the truth.
I believe the producers; NBC, Go Faster Productions and Three Ball Entertainment knowingly cheated the rules of the game.
I was told at the beginning of the game that one of the rules was once a contestant chose what clothing to wear for their first weigh-in he or she would have to wear that exact same outfit for each consecutive weigh-in ensuring that the clothing would not be a factor in their actual weight loss or gain. The reason being that the contestant’s weights would be rounded up or down depending on where the actual weight ended up. For example 5.8 pounds would be 6 pounds and 5.7 pounds would be would be 5 pounds. Therefore the difference of a gram could mean the difference of a whole pound.
On the third weigh-in I noticed that some of the other contestants were wearing different clothes than they did on their previous weigh-in’s. I complained to the producers that this was a violation of there own rules. I was told, ?What?'s the difference?. They dismissed my complaint and allowed the weights of the contestants in question to be recorded and used as their official weight. Later that nigh the producers had a meeting with the contestants and announced that they were changing the rule and that from now on the contestants could wear whatever they wanted to. I again complained that this was not fair but was told by the producers that the weights had already been locked in.
Being able to wear heavier or lighter clothes changes the strategy of the game which in-turn changes the outcome of the game.
I believe NBC, Go Faster Productions and Three Ball Entertainment are perpetrating a fraud on the American viewing public.
I would like a response.
Sincerely,

[Redacted]
Problem Description

wrote on 2/4/2005 4:28:12 PM:

* Advise you that FCC Rule 73.1216 ("Licensee-conducted contests") states, "A licensee that broadcasts or advertises information about a contest it conducts shall fully and accurately disclose the material terms of the contest, and shall conduct the contest substantially as announced or advertised. No contest description shall be false, misleading or deceptive with respect to any material term."

* Advise you that this rule does not apply to licensee-conducted contests not broadcast or advertised to the general public or to a substantial segment thereof, to contests in which the general public is not requested or permitted to participate, to the commercial advertisement of non-licensee-conducted contests, or to a contest conducted by a non-broadcast division of the licensee or by a non-broadcast company related to the licensee.

If you believe a station violated contest rules, you may file a Complaint:

The complaint must include:

1 - Information regarding the details of the contest;
2 - The date and time of the broadcast; and
3 - The call sign of the station involved.

Mail complaints to:

Federal Communications Commission
Enforcement Bureau
Investigations and Hearings Division
445 12th St., SW Room 3-B443
Washington, DC 20554

Note: Any documentation submitted becomes part of the Commission's records and may not be returned.

- A complaint will be dismissed if it does not contain information sufficient to determine that a violation may have occurred.

In addition to filing with the FCC, you may want to seek guidance from the California State Attorney General's Office. Thank you.
Hello FCC Investor,

Please help me with the following question and please keep this email highly confidential.

I am a manager "______" and was hired on 7/1/1998.

In past three years, I have received a lot of complains regarding a local sales manager "______" she is also an part-time on-air DJ for severa~

She was not only passed out false information or false advertisement on the air or during the promotional events in order to brings more audiences to our events. She also cheated during some of the on air give away prizes game shows. She played tricks and arranged to give out some prizes to her friends when she answered the audiences incoming calls.

At another Plaza grand opening event. She played tricks during drawing and arranged top 4 prizes to our employees(including herself)during this event. Event was live broadcasted by one of our radio station ~approx. 3 years ago. They were afraid to report to upper managers because they were afraid of Ruby or company's retaliation. Two of them already either been terminated or left our company. One of them still workeddd with "______" as a house AE, under supervision.

I received this complains at the end of last year.

I don't know what should I do in order to protect myself, because many employees has been fired, terminated or retaliated by either or companyin past several years. I also have been retaliated since 9/2003 after I documented another had conducts in to Station owner's wife "______" in New York.

At beginning of this year, I was told that Arthur has decided to demoted me from Assistant Vice President to an AE on 1/10/2005.

You can tell why people were afraid to report, because it's useless. There were rumors on the street regarding "______" has a special or close relationship with stationowner "______" Please advise me what
should I do, and please help us under such a dangous company. [Redacted] owned more than 50 stations nationwide at this time. He is a person with big power in broadcasting business. Please keep me highly confidential, I don't want to losse my job.

Thank you very much.

Best Regards,

[Redacted]

Regards,

[Redacted]

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Do you Yahoo!? Meet the all-new My Yahoo! - Try it today!
http://my.yahoo.com
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**Problem Description**

Saw game show - price is right - looked like they were cheating - advised contact DOJ. Info from "A "game show" in which selected contestants participate is governed by the United States Code (USC) Title 47, regulated by the Department of Justice"
Hello,

Thank you for contacting the FCC.

Your complaint has been forwarded to the FCC Enforcement Bureau.

Any documentation submitted becomes part of the Commission's records and may not be returned.

A complaint will be dismissed if it does not contain information sufficient to determine that a violation may have occurred.

Best Regards.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is __ and I was a recent contestant on the NBC game show ?The Biggest Loser?. The final episode aired Nov. 29, 2005.

I am writing to you now because the contestants were told that if we talked to anyone about the show we could be sued for a million dollars. I believe it is time to tell the truth.

I believe the producers; NBC, Go Faster Productions and Three Ball Entertainment knowingly cheated the rules of the game.

I was told at the beginning of the game that one of the rules was once a contestant chose what clothing to wear for their first weigh-in he or she would have to wear that exact same outfit for each consecutive weigh-in ensuring that the clothing would not be a factor in their actual weight loss or gain. The reason being that the contestant?s weights would be rounded up or down depending on where the actual weight ended up. For example 5.8 pounds would be 6 pounds and 5.7 pounds would be 5 pounds. Therefore the difference of a gram could mean the difference of a whole pound.

On the third weigh-in I noticed that some of the other contestants were wearing different clothes than they did on their previous weigh-in?s. I complained to the producers that this was a violation of there own rules. I was told, ?What?s the difference?. They dismissed my complaint and allowed the weights of the contestants in question to be recorded and used as their official weight. Later that nigh the producers had a meeting with the contestants and announced that they were changing the rule and that from now on the contestants could wear whatever they wanted to. I again complained that this was not fair but was told by the producers that the weights had already been locked in.

Being able to wear heavier or lighter clothes changes the strategy of the game which in-turn changes the outcome of the game.

I believe NBC, Go Faster Productions and Three Ball Entertainment are perpetrating a fraud on the American viewing public.
I would like a response.
Sincerely
### Complaint Summary:

Game Show Fraud-A Contestant name Edward Donato openly admitted on TV that he cheated on the program Big Brother 8 by receiving outside help from his son. In addition, Mr. Donato has been frequently shown on Primetime TV from CBS abusing by using edited words against female contestants, a homosexual contestant and other male contestants relating to sexual matters. Allison Grober (spelling) Productions is responsible for allowing such material to be aired through CBS on public television during evening hours in the presence of children. The behavior shown by Mr. Donato with the approval by CBS and Mr. Donato's confession on live TV that he had been receiving coded messages and was taped with the suspicion of cheating on live TV has been condoned by CBS and Allison Grober Productions. The entire Big Brother Season 8 has ruined the integrity of the show and airing of the language even though edited both of a profane and sexual nature in the presence of children is unacceptable.

### On Behalf Of:

**Company Name:**

**Relationship with the Party:**

**Party's Name:**

**Party's Contact Number:** Ext.

**PO Box:**

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:** MO

**Zip:**

### Other Party that can be contacted?

**Name:**

**Relationship:**

**Contact Number:** Ext.

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Zip:**
Amount of credit FCC effort generated:

Have you paid any of the disputed charges?
Did the company billing for these charges adjust or refund some or all of the disputed charges?
If yes, what was the amount of the adjustment or refund?
   a. Name of carrier(s) or company(ies) involved in your complaint: AT&T (formerly SBC) and ILD Teleservices
   b. Telephone number for the carrier(s) or company(ies) involved with your complaint, including area code: Phone: Ext:
   c. Which type of service is involved with your complaint:

TCPA Information from 475
1. the telephone number of the individual or company who called or faxed you: Ext:
2. your telephone number(s) on which the call or fax was received:
3. a description of the telemarketing call, pre-recorded message, or unsolicited fax, including an identification of the company whose products or services were being advertised, and any phone numbers that were included in the call or fax:
4. the "opt-out" number(s) provided in the call(s) or on the fax(es): (List number(s) given in the call(s) or fax(es) for you to contact if you do not want to receive any additional calls or faxes.) Ext:
5. Have you: (a) purchased anything from the company being advertised in the call or fax; (b) made an inquiry or application to that company; or (c) given consent to the company to send you the call or fax? If so, please describe and state when you had such contact with the company.

Broadcast Information from 475B
(1) Date of Program: Numerous
(2) Time of Program: 7pm
(3) Network: CBS
(4) Call Sign, Channel OR Frequency of the station on which you viewed/heard the material: Channel 4
(5) City and State Where Program Was Viewed: Saint Louis, MO
(6) Name of Personality/Song/Film: Big Brother

ANALYSIS SECTION

Correspondence Type: Complaint Inquiry Source Code: Internet
Apparent Carrier(s):

Re-Serve Carrier(s):
Responding Carrier(s):
Assigned Subject Code: Programming Issues
Program Type: TV
Activity Code: Direct
Assigned Code Acronym: PROG
Sub-Category: Content Criticism (PCCR)
Final Responsible Party:
Additional Sub-Category:
Copy of Response Sent to Consumer by Carrier?: Yes No
Mediation with Carrier/Complainant?: Yes No

Response Type:
**Title:** CBS is committing a modern form of fraud in the way the old game shows did in order to get a specific result. They are using meetings on the set of the show and one of the players in order to influence the outcome. The show is then... NOT FAIR... and therefore a fraud. Perhaps even worse, CBS is allowing one of the contestants to abuse others in a way that makes this and many other viewers uncomfortable... the player is known as "Dick". Evidence of this discomfort can be found on the CBS website message boards for the show and a website for TV Grapevine that discusses events on TV reality shows. I have been a regular watcher of the show for several seasons and consider this season a desperate attempt by CBS to prop up the show. Rule changes are one thing but attempting to influence the outcome of your own show is another....

**Complaint Summary:**

CBS is committing a modern form of fraud in the way the old game shows did in order to get a specific result. They are using meetings on the set of the show and one of the players in order to influence the outcome. The show is then... NOT FAIR... and therefore a fraud. Perhaps even worse, CBS is allowing one of the contestants to abuse others in a way that makes this and many other viewers uncomfortable... the player is known as "Dick". Evidence of this discomfort can be found on the CBS website message boards for the show and a website for TV Grapevine that discusses events on TV reality shows. I have been a regular watcher of the show for several seasons and consider this season a desperate attempt by CBS to prop up the show. Rule changes are one thing but attempting to influence the outcome of your own show is another....

**Indecency Referral Code:** Denial - Broadcast outside of subject matter definition
Have you paid any of the disputed charges?
Did the company billing for these charges adjust or refund some or all of the disputed charges?
If yes, what was the amount of the adjustment or refund?
a. Name of carrier(s) or company(ies) involved in your complaint: Sprint
b. Telephone number for the carrier(s) or company(ies) involved with your complaint, including area code:
   Phone: Ext:
c. Which type of service is involved with your complaint:
   TCPA Information from 475
1. the telephone number of the individual or company who called or faxed you:
2. your telephone number(s) on which the call or fax was received:
3. a description of the telemarketing call, pre-recorded message, or unsolicited fax, including an identification of the company whose products or services were being advertised, and any phone numbers that were included in the call or fax:
4. the "opt-out" number(s) provided in the call(s) or on the fax(es):
   (List number(s) given in the call(s) or fax(es) for you to contact if you do not want to receive any additional calls or faxes.)
5. Have you: (a) purchased anything from the company being advertised in the call or fax;
   (b) made an inquiry or application to that company; or (c) given consent to the company to send you the call or fax? If so, please describe and state when you had such contact with the company.
   Broadcast Information from 475B
   (1) Date of Program: 8/21/07
   (2) Time of Program: 9 pm
   (3) Network: CBS
   (4) Call Sign, Channel OR Frequency of the station on which you viewed/heard the material: wesh
   (5) City and State Where Program Was Viewed: Ocala, Florida
   (6) Name of Program or DJ/Personality/Song/Film: Big Brother
   Updated?! Yes || No

ANALYSIS SECTION

Correspondence Type:  Complaint Inquiry Source Code: Internet

Apparent Carrier(s): Re-Serve Carrier(s):

Responding Carrier(s): Assigned Subject Code: Programming Issues

Activity Code: Direct Assigned Code Acronym: PROG

Final Responsible Party: Sub-Category: Content Criticism (PCCR)

Copy of Response Sent to Consumer by Carrier?: Yes || No

Mediation with Carrier/Complainant?: Yes || No Response Type:

DRO Letters
COMPLAINT FOR

Complaint Type: Unknown
Media Type: Account Type: Residential

Case Type: Complaint

Date Entered: 08/21/2007
Date Assigned: 08/22/2007

Entered By: OSCARServer
Assigned To: FCC/N

Date Closed: 08/27/2007
Closed By: 

Close Letter Needed?: Yes

Purged By: 
Purged Date: 

Removed By: 
Removed Date: 

Indecency Referral Code: 

Current Status: Closed

Complaint Summary:
I'm not sure this is the proper form, but please let me know if there is a different form for potentially fraudulent "contests" on television; I'm hoping that the FCC will look into how valid the "competition" is on CBS's "reality" show "Big Brother 8". It has become clear this year that the "rules" of the game are not being followed. One contestant has had drinks dumped on her head even though there's a no-violent-acts rule. One rulebook-reading contestant is currently having her actions undone even though she had confirmed the rules in advance. (Destroying cigarettes which were immediately replaced.) It really seems as if this is a "game" in which the producers have picked their winner long ago. There is also talk about pressure in the "Diary Room" (where contestants are isolated for private conversation) to keep certain players; I hope this is taken serious. I've held back this form for almost a month but it is very, very clear by now that there are no true rules being enforced. Like the game shows of the 1950s, this one is rigged for ratings. It may even be possible that the producers are not aware that they are rigging the game if they're blind to the line between ratings and rigging. If nothing more, the show should be forced to disclaim it's status as a contest. Please help make sure future contestants enter a safe house with a valid competition, and that viewers are aware of what they are *not* seeing: a fair, unbiased contest.

Title: None
First Name: 
Middle Initial: 
Last Name: 

Contact Name: 
Contact Number: Ext.
Fax Number: 
Email Address: 
PO Box: 
City: Kenmore
State: NY
Zip: 14217

Company Name: 
Party's Name: 
Relationship with the Party: 
Party's Contact Number: Ext.
PO Box: 
Address: 
City: State: Zip:

Other Party that can be contacted?
Name: Relationship:
Contact Number: Ext. Address:
City: State: Zip:
**Amount of credit FCC effort generated:**
Duplicate Credit Checked: Yes No

Have you paid any of the disputed charges?
Did the company billing for these charges adjust or refund some or all of the disputed charges?
If yes, what was the amount of the adjustment or refund?
a. Name of carrier(s) or company(ies) involved in your complaint: T-Mobile
b. Telephone number for the carrier(s) or company(ies) involved with your complaint, including area code: Phone: Ext:
c. Which type of service is involved with your complaint:

TCPA Information from 475
1. the telephone number of the individual or company who called or faxed you:
2. your telephone number(s) on which the call or fax was received:
3. a description of the telemarketing call, pre-recorded message, or unsolicited fax, including an identification of the company whose products or services were being advertised, and any phone numbers that were included in the call or fax:
4. the "opt-out" number(s) provided in the call(s) or on the fax(es):
(List number(s) given in the call(s) or fax(es) for you to contact if you do not want to receive any additional calls or faxes.)
5. Have you: (a) purchased anything from the company being advertised in the call or fax; (b) made an inquiry or application to that company; or (c) given consent to the company to send you the call or fax? If so, please describe and state when you had such contact with the company.

Broadcast Information from 475B
(1) Date of Program: Continuous: Summer'07
(2) Time of Program: 24/7
(3) Network: CBS
(4) Call Sign, Channel OR Frequency of the station on which you viewed/heard the material: WIVB/Showtime2/www
(5) City and State Where Program Was Viewed: Buffalo, NY
(6) Name of Program or DJ/Personality/Song/Film: Big Brother 8

Updated? Yes No

ANALYSIS SECTION

Correspondence Type: Complaint Inquiry Source Code: Internet

Apparent Carrier(s): Re-Serve Carrier(s):

Responding Carrier(s): Assigned Subject Code: Programming Issues

Program Type: Cable/Satellite

Activity Code: Direct Assigned Code Acronym: PROG

Final Responsible Party: Assigned Code Acronym: Content Criticism (PCCR)

Additional Sub-Category:

Copy of Response Sent to Consumer by Carrier?: Yes No

Mediation with Carrier/Complainant?: Yes No Response Type:
Complaint Summary:
CBS has chosen to sell and air live feed of the reality show Big Brother. Those who watch those feeds know that CBS is rigging the game. The houseguests have stated it on the live feeds. I believe this to be a violation of Title 47, Chapter 5, Subchapter 5, 509. Prohibited practices in contests.

There are also allegations that the reason CBS is rigging the outcome of the game in order to profit through increased advertising sales and increased revenue from the text messages they charge viewers to use in order to vote on the game.

CBS has billed this as a game show and reality TV. There are LEGAL standards to which they must adhere. I, and many viewers, believe CBS has crossed the line and violated the FCC regulations.

I humbly request that you investigate these allegations and prosecute CBS to the fullest extent of the law.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Problem Number:

Title: None
First Name: [Redacted]
Middle Initial: [Redacted]
Last Name: [Redacted]

Contact Name: [Redacted]
Contact Number: Ext.
Fax Number: [Redacted]
Email Address: [Redacted]
PO Box: [Redacted]
City: Glen Ellyn
State: IL
Zip: 60137

Company Name:
Party's Name: Relationship with the Party:
Have you paid any of the disputed charges? No
Did the company billing for these charges adjust or refund some or all of the disputed charges? No
If yes, what was the amount of the adjustment or refund?
a. Name of carrier(s) or company(ies) involved in your complaint: CBS
b. Telephone number for the carrier(s) or company(ies) involved with your complaint, including area code: Phone: Ext:
c. Which type of service is involved with your complaint: Home Telephone Service
   TCPA Information from 475
   1. the telephone number of the individual or company who called or faxed you: Ext:
   2. your telephone number(s) on which the call or fax was received: Ext:
   3. a description of the telemarketing call, pre-recorded message, or unsolicited fax, including an identification of the company whose products or services were being advertised, and any phone numbers that were included in the call or fax:
   4. the "opt-out" number(s) provided in the call(s) or fax(es) for you to contact if you do not want to receive any additional calls or faxes.
   5. Have you: (a) purchased anything from the company being advertised in the call or fax; (b) made an inquiry or application to that company; or (c) given consent to the company to send you the call or fax? If so, please describe and state when you had such contact with the company.

   (1) Date of Program:
   (2) Time of Program:
   (3) Network:
   (4) Call Sign, Channel OR Frequency of the station on which you viewed/heard the material:
   (5) City and State Where Program Was Viewed:
   (6) Name of Program or DJ/Personality/Song/Film:

Updated: Yes No

ANALYSIS SECTION

Correspondence Type: Complaint Inquiry Source Code: Internet

Apparent Carrier(s):

Re-Serve Carrier(s):

Responding Carrier(s):

Assigned Subject Code: OTHER

Activity Code: Direct

Assigned Code Acronym: OTHE

Sub-Category: Other (OTHE)

Other Code Description

Final Responsible Party:

Copy of Response Sent to Consumer by Carrier?: Yes No
Thanks for contacting the FCC via the online inquiry form, with your inquiry (designated IC Number: 07-W13271938), regarding the 'reality' show 'Big Brother.' We will close your inquiry IC Number: 07-W13271938 with this response:

Section 73.1216 of the Commission's rules governs the broadcast of licensee-conducted contests, i.e., a contest conducted by an FCC-licensed station in which a prize is offered 'to members of the public.' Since the show 'Big Brother' is conducted by a network programmer (vs. an FCC-licensed station) and does not offer a prize to members of the public, it is not regulated by the FCC.

A "game show" in which 'selected contestants' (vs. 'members of the public') participate is governed by Section 509 of Title 47 of the United States Code (USC), and regulated by the Department of Justice. However 'Big Brother' does not appear to meet the definition of a "game show." Rather, it is a 'for entertainment only' program, somewhat similar to professional wrestling in that it is a pseudo-contest in which the outcome is fully, or in some measure, predetermined.
COMPLAINT FOR

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<tr>
<td>Indecency Referral Code:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Status: Closed

Associated Case:

Complaint Summary:

Problem Number:

Title: None
First Name: 
Middle Initial: 
Last Name: 
Best Time to Call: 
Consumer's Telephone Number: Ext.
TTY Number: 
Internet Address: 
State: CT
Zip: 08811

On Behalf Of:
Company Name: 

Party's Name: Relationship with the Party: 
Party's Contact Number: Ext.
PO Box: 
Address: 
City: State: Zip: 

Other Party that can be contacted?
Name: Relationship: 
Contact Number: Ext.
Address: 
City: State: Zip: 

**Amount of credit FCC effort generated:
Duplicate Credit Checked: ○ Yes ○ No

Have you paid any of the disputed charges?
Did the company billing for these charges adjust or refund some or all of the disputed charges?
If yes, what was the amount of the adjustment or refund?
b. Telephone number for the carrier(s) or company(ies) involved with your complaint, including area code: 
Phone: Ext:
c. Which type of service is involved with your complaint:
TCPA Information from 475

1. the telephone number of the individual or company who called or faxed you: Ext:
2. your telephone number(s) on which the call or fax was received: Ext:
3. a description of the telemarketing call, pre-recorded message, or unsolicited fax, including an identification of the company whose products or services were being advertised, and any phone numbers that were included in the call or fax:
4. the "opt-out" number(s) provided in the call(s) or on the fax(es):
   (List number(s) given in the call(s) or fax(es) for you to contact if you do not want to receive any additional calls or faxes.) Ext:
5. Have you: (a) purchased anything from the company being advertised in the call or fax;
   (b) made an inquiry or application to that company; or (c) given consent to the company to send you the call or fax? If so, please describe and state when you had such contact with the company.
   (1) Date of Program:
   (2) Time of Program:
   (3) Network:
   (4) Call Sign, Channel OR Frequency of the station on which you viewed/heard the material:
   (5) City and State Where Program Was Viewed:
   (6) Name of Program or DJ/Personality/Song/Film:
Updated? Yes No

ANALYSIS SECTION

Correspondence Type: • Complaint 0 Inquiry Source Code: Postal Mail
Apparent Carrier(s):
Re-Serve Carrier(s):
Responding Carrier(s):
Assigned Subject Code: OTHER
Activity Code: Direct Other Code Description TV Game Show contest
Assigned Code Acronym: OTHE
Final Responsible Party: Sub-Category: Other
Additional Sub-Category:
Copy of Response Sent to Consumer by Carrier?: ○ Yes ● No
Mediation with Carrier/Complainant?: ○ Yes ● No
Response Type:

DRO Letters

Referral Information
Date Referred: Referral Information Date Referred: Company Name(s): Disability Referral Letter Agency Name(s):
Referred To: Agency Name(s):
Dear FCC Enforcement Bureau,

For the past 2 nights I have been trying to play the hour-long interactive TV game "Play To Win" which airs at 2AM on WPIX-TV Channel 11 New York. It says "No purchase necessary" for a chance to win up to at least $500. You can submit 10 entries per contest, 50 an hour through 3 ways: 1) Call a 900 # paying $1.50/call 2) Text message $1.50/text 3) FREE online web entry at www.playtowin.tv. Both nights the FREE web entry has been either down or when you submit your name they say they will e-mail you back a link that you need to go click on to confirm. I never receive the link until AFTER the contest is over. This morning I received e-mails at 7:07AM & 10:27AM from entries I did at around 2:15am! I have these and all e-mails with the times saved. You are supposed to get instant confirmations because each contest is about 10 minutes in length. It is illegal to say "No purchase necessary" but require people to pay possibly up to $150 a night to enter. This is a deceptive practice. I tried contacting the station several times and left messages but no one calls me back. I called "Play to Win" customer service only to get answering machine messages. Can you please investigate this? Enclosed please find copies of e-mail validations with the times on it. Thank you for your help in this matter.
Subj: Play2win validation
Date: 10/17/2006 3:04:43 A.M. Eastern Standard Time
From: no reply@playtowinwebentry.com
To: [Redacted]

Hello,

Thank you for participating!
Click here to validate your request:
http://www.playtowinwebentry.com/validate/cw11/1899af0d0e816373070421cc61b6dd

Play2win

DO NOT REPLY ON THIS EMAIL, IT WILL NOT BE READ
Subj: Play2win validation
Date: 10/17/2006 3:05:17 A.M. Eastern Standard Time
From: noreply@playtowinwebentry.com
To:

Hello,

Thank you for participating!
Click here to validate your request:
http://www.playtowinwebentry.com/validate/cw11/eefc5ac9763c8f38951282529e7c4ba1

Play2win

DO NOT REPLY ON THIS EMAIL, IT WILL NOT BE READ
Hello,

Thank you for participating!
Click here to validate your request:
http://www.playtowinwebentry.com/validate/cw11/e64a542a6dd8c7635b2b608d1532fd76

Play2win

DO NOT REPLY ON THIS EMAIL, IT WILL NOT BE READ
Hello,

Thank you for participating!
Click here to validate your request:
http://www.playtowinwebentry.com/validate/cw11/6ae551c5d1d05f845ae79d79ddafec4e

Play2win

DO NOT REPLY ON THIS EMAIL, IT WILL NOT BE READ
COMPLAINT FOR

Complaint Type: Broadcast
Account Type: Residential

IC Number: 06-WB12083650
Date Received: 08/08/2006

Date Entered: 08/08/2006
Entered By: FCC_NOTES01

Assigned To: CCIN
Date Assigned: 08/14/2006

Date Closed: 08/17/2006
Closed By: [Redacted]

Case Type: Complaint
Complainant: [Redacted]

Service Date: Referral

Date Reassigned: [Redacted]
Response Date: [Redacted]

Supervisor Check: [Redacted]

Current Status: Closed

Associated Case:

Complaint Summary:
WPIX has started a "promotional" program called "Text to Win." I believe that this is a form of broadcast gambling. On this so called "game show," viewers are asked to send text messages with answers to word questions. The hostess has made no mention through the first 40 minutes that people who send text messages will be charged $1.50 per entry. She has made no mention that free entries are available online. This information is only available by reading very small print on the bottom of the TV screen. The answers to the questions are very easy, to ensure that many people as possible send text messages. For a "chance" to win a prize of $500, for instance, contestants were asked to unscramble the word "Thanksgiving." Turkey sounds were played as a hint. This particular contest took 10-15 minutes. WPIX states on its web site that this program is a "promotion," but clearly the contestants themselves are paying for the prizes with their entry fee text messages. The job of the hostess appears simply to get as many people to text in as possible. Were I to set up such a scheme, whereby people paid me a set entry fee for a chance to win a prize, whether contestants needed to guess the right word, or choose the right three numbers, I believe that I would be investigated by any number of state and federal authorities for running a gambling establishment. "Pick to Win" is nothing more than a numbers racket and in no way serves the public interest.

Problem Number:

Title: None
First Name: [Redacted]
Middle Initial: [Redacted]
Last Name: [Redacted]

Contact Name: [Redacted]
Contact Number: [Redacted] Ext.
Fax Number: [Redacted]
Email Address: [Redacted]
PO Box: [Redacted]
City: Suffern
State: NY
Zip: 10901

Best Time to Call: [Redacted]
Consumer's Telephone Number: [Redacted] Ext.
TTY Number: [Redacted]
Internet Address: [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted]

On Behalf Of:
Company Name:

Party's Name:
Relationship with the Party:

Party's Contact Number: Ext.
PO Box:
Address:
City: State: Zip:

Other Party that can be contacted?
**Amount of credit FCC effort generated:**

**Duplicate Credit Checked:** ☐ Yes ☜ No

**Relationship:**

**Contact Number:** Ext.

**Address:**

City, State, Zip:

Have you paid any of the disputed charges?

Did the company billing for these charges adjust or refund some or all of the disputed charges?

If yes, what was the amount of the adjustment or refund?

a. Name of carrier(s) or company(ies) involved in your complaint: Sprint/Nextel

b. Telephone number for the carrier(s) or company(ies) involved with your complaint, including area code: Phone: Ext:

c. Which type of service is involved with your complaint:

TCPA Information from 475

1. the telephone number of the individual or company who called or faxed you:

2. your telephone number(s) on which the call or fax was received:

3. a description of the telemarketing call, pre-recorded message, or unsolicited fax, including an identification of the company whose products or services were being advertised, and any phone numbers that were included in the call or fax:

4. the "opt-out" number(s) provided in the call(s) or on the fax(es):
   (List number(s) given in the call(s) or fax(es) for you to contact if you do not want to receive any additional calls or faxes.) Ext:

5. Have you: (a) purchased anything from the company being advertised in the call or fax;
   (b) made an inquiry or application to that company; or (c) given consent to the company to send
   you the call or fax? if so, please describe and state when you had such contact with the company.

Broadcast Information from 475B

(1) Date of Program: 8/8/2006

(2) Time of Program: 2:00am

(3) Network: WB

(4) Call Sign, Channel OR Frequency of the station on which you viewed/heard the material: WPIX

(5) City and State Where Program Was Viewed: New York, NY

(6) Name of Program or DJ/Personality/Song/Film: "Text to Win"

**ANALYSIS SECTION**

**Correspondence Type:** ☐ Complaint ☐ Inquiry  **Source Code:** Internet

**Apparent Carrier(s):**

**Responding Carrier(s):**

**Assigned Subject Code:** Programming Issues

**Program Type:** TV

**Activity Code:** Direct

**Final Responsible Party:**

**Assigned Code Acronym:** PROG

**Sub-Category:** Content Criticism (PCCR)

**Additional Sub-Category:**

**Copy of Response Sent to Consumer by Carrier?:** ☐ Yes ☞ No

**Mediation with Carrier/Complainant?:** ☐ Yes ☞ No

**Response Type:**
COMPLAINT FOR

Complaint Type: Wireline

Account Type: Residential

Date Received: 02/05/2003

Date Entered: 02/19/2003

Entered By: PORTALSV1

Assigned To: FCCIN

Date Closed: 02/25/2003

Closed By: Judy Williams/FCCIN

Current Status: Closed

View Complaint

Associated Case:

Complaint Summary:

Problem Number:

Title: None

Contact Name: [Redacted]

Fax Number: [Redacted]

Email Address: [Redacted]

Contact Number: Ext.

Best Time to Call: [Redacted]

Consumer's Telephone Number: Ext.

TTY Number: [Redacted]

Internet Address: [Redacted]

Address: Hendersonville

City: Hendersonville

State: NC

Zip: 28791

On Behalf Of:

Company Name: [Redacted]

Party's Name: [Redacted]

Party's Contact Number: Ext.

PO Box: [Redacted]

Address: [Redacted]

City: Hendersonville

State: NC

Zip: 28791

Other Party that can be contacted?

Name: [Redacted]

Relationship: [Redacted]

Contact Number: Ext.

Address: [Redacted]

City: Hendersonville

State: NC

Zip: 28791

Have you paid any of the disputed charges?

Did the company billing for these charges adjust or refund some or all of the disputed charges?

If yes, what was the amount of the adjustment or refund?

b. Telephone number for the carrier(s) or company(ies) involved with your complaint, including area code:

Phone: Ext.

**Amount of credit FCC effort generated:**

Duplicate Credit Checked: Yes No

Have you paid any of the disputed charges?

Did the company billing for these charges adjust or refund some or all of the disputed charges?

If yes, what was the amount of the adjustment or refund?

b. Telephone number for the carrier(s) or company(ies) involved with your complaint, including area code:

Phone: Ext.

c. Which type of service is involved with your complaint:
TCPA Information from 475

1. the telephone number of the individual or company who called or faxed you: Ext:

2. your telephone number(s) on which the call or fax was received: Ext:

3. a description of the telemarketing call, pre-recorded message, or unsolicited fax, including an identification of the company whose products or services were being advertised, and any phone numbers that were included in the call or fax:

4. the "opt-out" number(s) provided in the call(s) or on the fax(es): (List number(s) given in the call(s) or fax(es) for you to contact if you do not want to receive any additional calls or faxes.) Ext:

5. Have you: (a) purchased anything from the company being advertised in the call or fax; (b) made an inquiry or application to that company; or (c) given consent to the company to send you the call or fax? If so, please describe and state when you had such contact with the company.

   (1) Date of Program:
   (2) Time of Program:
   (3) Network:
   (4) Call Sign, Channel OR Frequency of the station on which you viewed/heard the material:
   (5) City and State Where Program Was Viewed:
   (6) Name of Program or DJ/Personality/Song/Film:

Updated? ☐ Yes ☐ No

ANALYSIS SECTION

Correspondence Type: ● Complaint ○ Inquiry Source Code: Postal Mail

Apparent Carrier(s): Re-Serve Carrier(s):

Responding Carrier(s): Assigned Subject Code: OTHER

Activity Code: Direct Assigned Code Acronym: OTHE

Final Responsible Party: Other Code Description

Copy of Response Sent to Consumer by Carrier?: ○ Yes ○ No

Mediation with Carrier/Complainant?: ○ Yes ○ No Response Type:

DRO Letters

DRO123 DRO456 DRO789 DRO987 DRO1234 DRO4567

Referral Information
Date Referred:

Referred To: Agency Name(s): Company Name(s):
January 22, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Enforcement Bureau
Investigations and Hearing Division
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC,

I have for a long suspected that the Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy are fixed in terms of managing who wins.

Recently on Wheel of Fortune there was added two "Mystery" spaces on the wheel. The incidence rate that these two spaces are landed upon defies all laws of probability, establishing in my mind that the show controls the wheel. And if it can control the wheel, it can control the game and have certain contestants win in order to increase their audiences and ratings.

Jeopardy tests its contestants so that it knows what the contestants know and do not know and they can manage, and I suspect they do, the questions in order to have a given contestant win so that they also can increase their audiences and their ratings.

It is my view that these shows must be impartial to their contestants. And I seriously believe that they are not impartial for purposes of pandering to certain audiences and for purposes of improving their ratings.

These shows are defrauding and cheating their contestants by not giving them an equal chance to win and are being less than honest with their audiences who are led to believe that the contestants have an equal chance to win based on their skill and knowledge.

I would encourage you, in the interest of fairness and justice, to check this out. And I would greatly appreciate your keeping me informed of your actions in this regard.

Sincerely,