

Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for making sure that your comment does not include any sensitive personal information, like anyone's Social Security number, date of birth, driver's license number or other state identification number or foreign country equivalent, passport number, financial account number, or credit or debit card number. You are also solely responsible for making sure that your comment does not include any sensitive health information, like medical records or other individually identifiable health information. In addition, do not include any "[t]rade secret or any commercial or financial information which is obtained from any person and which is privileged or confidential," as provided in Section 6(f) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. 46(f), and FTC Rule 4.10(a)(2), 16 CFR 4.10(a)(2). In particular, do not include competitively sensitive information such as costs, sales statistics, inventories, formulas, patterns, devices, manufacturing processes, or customer names.

If you want the Commission to give your comment confidential treatment, you must file it in paper form, with a request for confidential treatment, and you have to follow the procedure explained in FTC Rule 4.9(c), 16 CFR 4.9(c).¹ Your comment will be kept confidential only if the FTC General Counsel, in his or her sole discretion, grants your request in accordance with the law and the public interest.

Postal mail addressed to the Commission is subject to delay due to heightened security screening. As a result, we encourage you to submit your comments online. To make sure that the Commission considers your online comment, you must file it at <http://ftcpublic.commentworks.com/ftc/carepatrolconsent> by following the instructions on the web-based form. If this Notice appears at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!home>, you also may file a comment through that Web site.

If you file your comment on paper, write "CarePatrol, Inc.—consent, FTC File No. 112 3155" on your comment and on the envelope, and mail or deliver it to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, Room H-113 (Annex D), 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20580. If possible, submit your

paper comment to the Commission by courier or overnight service.

Visit the Commission Web site at <http://www.ftc.gov> to read this Notice and the news release describing it. The FTC Act and other laws that the Commission administers permit the collection of public comments to consider and use in this proceeding as appropriate. The Commission will consider all timely and responsive public comments that it receives on or before October 17, 2012. You can find more information, including routine uses permitted by the Privacy Act, in the Commission's privacy policy, at <http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/privacy.htm>.

Analysis of Agreement Containing Consent Order To Aid Public Comment

The Federal Trade Commission ("Commission") has accepted, subject to final approval, an agreement containing a consent order from CarePatrol, Inc. ("CarePatrol" or "respondent").

The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for thirty (30) days for receipt of comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After thirty (30) days, the Commission will again review the agreement and the comments received, and will decide whether it should withdraw from the agreement or make the proposed order final.

The matter involves certain statements CarePatrol has made in Internet advertising regarding its placement services for seniors requiring long term care in assisted living facilities ("ALFs") and other non-nursing home facilities servicing the frail elderly. According to the Commission's complaint, CarePatrol made the following false and unsubstantiated claims: (a) That it monitors or grades the care history and violations of virtually all or a substantial majority of ALFs in a consumer's desired location; (b) that its senior care consultants are located in every state; and (c) that its monitoring or grading of assisted living facilities is based on a review of the facilities' most recent state inspection reports. Thus, the complaint states that CarePatrol has engaged in deceptive practices in violation of Section 5(a) of the FTC Act.

The proposed order contains four provisions designed to prevent CarePatrol, or other persons who are in active concert or participation with it, from engaging in similar acts and practices in the future. Part I.A.1 of the proposed order prohibits respondent from misrepresenting, or making unsubstantiated representations, that it has monitored or evaluated a number,

portion, or percentage of the assisted living facilities in a consumer's desired location.

Part I.A.2 prohibits CarePatrol from misrepresenting or making unsubstantiated representations that it or its franchisees provide placement services through a network of officers, agents, employees and contractors who are located in any geographic region.

Part I.A.3 prohibits CarePatrol from claiming that its monitoring or grading of assisted living facilities is based on a review of information contained in state inspection reports, or any other records detailing the performance of assisted living facilities, unless the claim is non-misleading and based on competent and reliable evidence. It also requires such claims to be based upon the most recent inspection reports.

Finally, Part I.B prohibits CarePatrol from making false or unsubstantiated representations regarding its placement services.

Parts II through V of the proposed order require CarePatrol to: keep copies of advertisements and materials relied upon in disseminating any representation covered by the order; provide copies of the order to certain personnel, agents, and representatives having supervisory responsibilities with respect to the subject matter of the order; notify the Commission of changes in its structure that might affect compliance obligations under the order; and file a compliance report with the Commission and respond to other requests from FTC staff. Part VI provides that the order will terminate after twenty (20) years, with certain exceptions.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the proposed order. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the complaint or the proposed order, or to modify the proposed order's terms in any way.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-23412 Filed 9-21-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-P

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 112 3168]

ABCSP, Inc.; Analysis of Proposed Consent Order to Aid Public Comment

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Proposed consent agreement.

SUMMARY: The consent agreement in this matter settles alleged violations of

¹ In particular, the written request for confidential treatment that accompanies the comment must include the factual and legal basis for the request, and must identify the specific portions of the comment to be withheld from the public record. See FTC Rule 4.9(c), 16 CFR 4.9(c).

federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair methods of competition. The attached Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes both the allegations in the draft complaint and the terms of the consent order—embodied in the consent agreement—that would settle these allegations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 17, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may file a comment online or on paper, by following the instructions in the Request for Comment part of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. Write “AABCSP, Inc.,—consent, FTC File No. 112 3168” on your comment, and file your comment online at <https://ftcpublic.commentworks.com/ftc/abcspconsent>, by following the instructions on the Web-based form. If you prefer to file your comment on paper, mail or deliver your comment to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, Room H-113 (Annex D), 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20580.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David R. Spiegel, (202-326-3281), FTC, Bureau of Consumer Protection, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20580.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46(f), and § 2.34 the Commission Rules of Practice, 16 CFR 2.34, notice is hereby given that the above-captioned consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days. The following Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes the terms of the consent agreement, and the allegations in the complaint. An electronic copy of the full text of the consent agreement package can be obtained from the FTC Home Page (for September 17, 2012), on the World Wide Web, at <http://www.ftc.gov/os/actions.shtm>. A paper copy can be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Room, Room 130-H, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20580, either in person or by calling (202) 326-2222.

You can file a comment online or on paper. For the Commission to consider your comment, we must receive it on or before October 17, 2012. “Write AABCSP, Inc.,—consent, FTC File No. 112 3168” on your comment. Your comment B including your name and your state B will be placed on the public

record of this proceeding, including, to the extent practicable, on the public Commission Web site, at <http://www.ftc.gov/os/publiccomments.shtm>. As a matter of discretion, the Commission tries to remove individuals’ home contact information from comments before placing them on the Commission Web site.

Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for making sure that your comment does not include any sensitive personal information, like anyone’s Social Security number, date of birth, driver’s license number or other state identification number or foreign country equivalent, passport number, financial account number, or credit or debit card number. You are also solely responsible for making sure that your comment does not include any sensitive health information, like medical records or other individually identifiable health information. In addition, do not include any “[t]rade secret or any commercial or financial information which is obtained from any person and which is privileged or confidential,” as provided in Section 6(f) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. 46(f), and FTC Rule 4.10(a)(2), 16 CFR 4.10(a)(2). In particular, do not include competitively sensitive information such as costs, sales statistics, inventories, formulas, patterns, devices, manufacturing processes, or customer names.

If you want the Commission to give your comment confidential treatment, you must file it in paper form, with a request for confidential treatment, and you have to follow the procedure explained in FTC Rule 4.9(c), 16 CFR 4.9(c).¹ Your comment will be kept confidential only if the FTC General Counsel, in his or her sole discretion, grants your request in accordance with the law and the public interest.

Postal mail addressed to the Commission is subject to delay due to heightened security screening. As a result, we encourage you to submit your comments online. To make sure that the Commission considers your online comment, you must file it at <https://ftcpublic.commentworks.com/ftc/abcspconsent> by following the instructions on the web-based form. If this Notice appears at <http://www.regulations.gov/#/home>, you also may file a comment through that Web site.

¹ In particular, the written request for confidential treatment that accompanies the comment must include the factual and legal basis for the request, and must identify the specific portions of the comment to be withheld from the public record. See FTC Rule 4.9(c), 16 CFR 4.9(c).

If you file your comment on paper, write “ABCSP, Inc.,—consent, FTC File No. 112 3168” on your comment and on the envelope, and mail or deliver it to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, Room H-113 (Annex D), 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20580. If possible, submit your paper comment to the Commission by courier or overnight service.

Visit the Commission Web site at <http://www.ftc.gov> to read this Notice and the news release describing it. The FTC Act and other laws that the Commission administers permit the collection of public comments to consider and use in this proceeding as appropriate. The Commission will consider all timely and responsive public comments that it receives on or before October 17, 2012. You can find more information, including routine uses permitted by the Privacy Act, in the Commission’s privacy policy, at <http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/privacy.htm>.

Analysis of Agreement Containing Consent Order To Aid Public Comment

The Federal Trade Commission (“Commission”) has accepted, subject to final approval, an agreement containing a consent order from ABCSP, Inc. (“ABC” or “respondent”).

The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for thirty (30) days for receipt of comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After thirty (30) days, the Commission will again review the agreement and the comments received, and will decide whether it should withdraw from the agreement or make the proposed order final.

The matter involves certain statements ABC has made in Internet advertising regarding its placement services for seniors requiring long term care in assisted living facilities (“ALFs”) and other non-nursing home facilities servicing the frail elderly. According to the Commission’s complaint, ABC made false and unsubstantiated claims that it, or its care coordinators, view or evaluate virtually all or a substantial majority of such facilities in every geographic region of the United States. Thus, the complaint states that ABC has engaged in deceptive practices in violation of Section 5(a) of the FTC Act.

The proposed order contains two provisions designed to prevent ABC, or other persons who are in active concert or participation with it, from engaging in similar acts and practices in the future. Part I.A prohibits respondent from misrepresenting or making unsubstantiated representations that it,

or its agents, personally view, inspect, or monitor assisted living facilities, including representations that it personally views, inspects, or monitors any particular number, portion, or percentage of ALFs in a geographic region.

Part I.B prohibits ABC from making any false or unsubstantiated representations regarding its placement services.

Parts II through V require ABC to: Keep copies of advertisements and materials relied upon in disseminating any representation covered by the order; provide copies of the order to certain personnel, agents, and representatives having supervisory responsibilities with respect to the subject matter of the order; notify the Commission of changes in its structure that might affect compliance obligations under the order; and file a compliance report with the Commission and respond to other requests from FTC staff. Part VI provides that the order will terminate after twenty (20) years, with certain exceptions.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the proposed order. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the complaint or the proposed order, or to modify the proposed order's terms in any way.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-23413 Filed 9-21-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-P

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Request for Comments and Announcement of Workshop on Pet Medications Issues

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission ("FTC" or "Commission")

ACTION: Reopening of the comment period for submission of public comments.

SUMMARY: The FTC is reopening the period for filing public comments in connection with a workshop to examine competition and consumer protection issues in the pet medications industry. The workshop will consider how current industry distribution and other business practices affect consumer choice and price competition for pet medications; the ability of consumers to obtain written, portable prescriptions that they can fill wherever they choose; and the ability of consumers to verify the safety and efficacy of pet medications that they purchase. The

workshop will also examine the extent to which recent changes to restricted distribution and prescription portability practices in the contact lens industry might yield lessons applicable to the pet medications industry. The Commission seeks the views of consumers, veterinarians, business representatives, economists, lawyers, academics, and other interested parties on these issues. This notice poses a series of questions relevant to those issues about which the Commission seeks comment. After conducting the workshop and reviewing comments, the Commission may prepare a report discussing these issues.

DATES: The FTC is reopening the comment period and extending the deadline for filing public comments until November 1, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments electronically or in paper form by following the instructions in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. Comments in electronic form should be submitted by using the following Web link: <https://ftcpublic.commentworks.com/ftc/petmedsworkshop> (and following the instructions on the Web-based form). Comments filed in paper form should be mailed or delivered to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, Room H-113 (Annex X), 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20580, in the manner detailed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie A. Wilkinson, Attorney, Office of Policy Planning, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20580, 202-326-2084, petmedsworkshop@ftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The quality and cost of pet medications is an important pocketbook issue for many consumers. In 2011, 62 percent of U.S. households owned a pet, and Americans spent an estimated \$50 billion on their pets,¹ including nearly \$7 billion for prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) pet medications.² Drawing on the Federal Trade Commission's expertise as a competition and consumer protection agency, the workshop will examine ways to inform and empower consumers to obtain the highest quality and most cost-effective healthcare products for their pets.

Pet owners spend significantly more money on their pets than in past decades, and the market for pet

medications has grown significantly in recent years.³ Manufacturers and veterinarians have introduced new and improved diagnostic and therapeutic treatments for pets; pet medications have become available at some online and brick-and-mortar retail outlets; and veterinarians and others have increasingly emphasized preventative pet care. In addition, market participants note, in recent years it has become easier to administer flea and tick control products and heartworm preventatives, and the products themselves have become more effective. These products comprise the bulk of chronic pet medications sold in the United States. Indeed, the sale of prescription and OTC flea, tick, and heartworm products totaled nearly \$3.7 billion in 2011.⁴

Distribution Practices in the Pet Medications Industry

Historically, veterinarians have been the principal dispensers of pet medications because of their unique role in the veterinarian-client-patient relationship, whereby a veterinarian examines, diagnoses, and treats the animal (patient), while also providing information to the animal's owner (client). Consumers still purchase most of their pet medications from the veterinarians who examine their pets, and most pet medication manufacturers choose to distribute their products exclusively through the veterinary channel.

Nonetheless, pet medications are no longer sold exclusively by veterinarians. Over the last ten years, brick-and-mortar and online retail and pharmacy entities (hereinafter collectively referred to as "retailers") also have begun selling pet medications, especially OTC medications. Some evidence suggests that these retailers may offer substantial pro-consumer benefits, such as increased convenience and lower prices.

Although retailers may obtain some portion of their pet medication products directly from manufacturers or authorized distributors, they also rely heavily on secondary supply channels. Most manufacturers state that they restrict the distribution of their pet

³ The size of the overall U.S. pet industry grew steadily from \$17 billion in 1994 to over \$50 billion in 2011. (American Pet Products Association Industry Statistics & Trends.) The size of the U.S. pet medications market grew from approximately \$4.5 billion in 2006 to approximately \$6.7 billion in 2011, and is projected to reach \$9.25 billion by 2015. (Packaged Facts estimates.)

⁴ *Id.* Of the estimated \$6.7 billion in U.S. retail sales of pet medications in 2011, 36% was for flea and tick control products, and 19% was for heartworm preventatives. (Packaged Facts estimates.)

¹ American Pet Products Association Industry Statistics & Trends.

² Packaged Facts estimates.