



## Description



# RHODE ISLAND DEBT MANAGEMENT SERVICES REGISTRATION

### Who is required to have this Registration?

- Any Company or Individual providing debt management services pursuant to the provisions of RI Gen. Laws §§19-14 and 19-14.8 et seq.

### Who is not required to have this Registration?

Any Company or Individual providing debt management services under the exemptions of RI Gen. Laws §§ 19-14.8-2, 19-14.8-3 and 19-14.8-4 as follows:

- Legal services provided in an attorney-client relationship by an attorney licensed or otherwise authorized to practice law in this state;
- Accounting services provided in an accountant-client relationship by a certified public accountant licensed to provide accounting services in this state; or
- Financial-planning services provided in a financial planner-client relationship by a member of a financial-planning profession whose members are
  - Licensed by this state;
  - Subject to a disciplinary mechanism;
  - Subject to a code of professional responsibility; and
  - Subject to a continuing-education requirement
- An agreement with an individual who the provider has no reason to know resides in this state at the time of the agreement.
- A provider that receives no compensation for debt-management services from or on behalf of the individuals to whom it provides the services or from their creditors.
- The following persons or their employees when the person or the employee is engaged in the regular course of the person's business or profession:
  - A judicial officer, a person acting under an order of a court or an administrative agency, or an assignee for the benefit of creditors;
  - A bank chartered under the laws of the United States or of this state;
  - An affiliate of a bank described if the affiliate is regulated by a federal or state banking regulatory authority;
  - A title insurer, escrow company, or other person that provides bill-paying services if the provision of debt-management services is incidental to the bill-paying services;
  - A bank chartered under the laws of another state, so long as the laws of such other state expressly authorize such bank to operate in such state, under conditions no more restrictive than those imposed by the laws of this state; or
  - An affiliate of a bank chartered under the laws of another state if the affiliate is regulated by a federal or state banking regulatory authority.

### Registration application pre-requisites:

- **Main Office:** If Applicant's headquarters differs from that of the proposed main office, then Applicant must register the headquarters as the main office on NMLS and list the other office as an agent location. This is required to provide consistency among the jurisdictions on NMLS.

- **Bond amount:** Registration is required to obtain and maintain a bond in the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) base amount increasing coverage by ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for 4 to 7 agent locations and twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for 8 or more agent locations (Agent locations **DO NOT** need to obtain a license).
- **Criminal background check:** All Control Persons must complete a Federal Background Check and authorize a Credit Report through NMLS. Control Persons include, all Officers, all Directors, Individual Direct Owners of Applicant who have an Equity Interest of 10% or more in Applicant, the Qualifying Individual and any individual who has access to the trust account.
- **Experience:** The Qualifying Individual must have a minimum of five (5) years experience in the debt management services industry.
- **Testing:** None required
- **Education:** None required
- **Net Worth:** Applicant must maintain a positive net worth at all times.

**WHO TO CONTACT** – Contact the Division licensing staff by phone at (401) 462-9503 or send your questions via e-mail to [DBR.bankinquiry@dbr.ri.gov](mailto:DBR.bankinquiry@dbr.ri.gov) for assistance.

THE APPLICANT/LICENSEE IS FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE REGISTRATION FOR WHICH THEY ARE APPLYING. THE JURISDICTION SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE FOR GUIDANCE ONLY TO FACILITATE APPLICATION THROUGH THE NMLS. SHOULD YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONSULT LEGAL COUNSEL.