

The Court of General Sessions may, in case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any person, issue an order requiring such person to appear before the Commissioner or his duly authorized agent, or to produce documentary evidence if so ordered, or to give evidence touching the matter in question, and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by such court as a contempt thereof.

(C) No person shall be excused from attending and testifying or from producing documentary evidence before the Commissioner or his duly authorized agent in obedience to the subpoena of the Commissioner on the ground or for the reason that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of him may tend to incriminate him or subject him to a penalty or forfeiture. But no person except a corporation shall be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter, or thing concerning which he may testify, or produce evidence, documentary or otherwise, before the Commissioner in obedience to a subpoena: *Provided*, That no such person so testifying shall be exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury committed in so testifying.

SEC. 8.103. (A) The Commissioner or his duly authorized agents may administer oaths and affirmations to persons summoned in any investigation or hearing conducted under this Act. Any false swearing on the part of any person as to any material fact shall be deemed perjury and shall be punished in the manner prescribed by law for such offense.

(B) The Commissioner may order testimony to be taken by deposition at any stage of an investigation pending under this Act. Such depositions may be taken before any person designated by the Commissioner having power to administer oaths. Such testimony shall be reduced to writing by the person taking the deposition, or under his direction, and shall then be subscribed by the deponent. Any persons may be compelled to appear and depose and to produce documentary evidence in the same manner as witnesses may be compelled to appear and testify and produce documentary evidence before the Department as hereinbefore provided.

SEC. 8.104. In carrying out the purposes of this Act, the District of Columbia Department of Consumer Protection is hereby authorized to—

(1) hold hearings or otherwise gather information and conduct investigations relative to any aspect of, or matter in, the administration and enforcement of this Act or regulations promulgated under the authority of this Act;

(2) compel witnesses to appear, testify, or produce books, records, papers, or documents under the authority of and in the manner provided by sections 8.102 and 8.103; and

(3) initiate such proceedings as may be necessary for enforcement of sanctions provided in sections 8.201 through 8.204, or issue such orders as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Act and enforce the sanctions provided in sections 8.201 through 8.204, and enforce the same by all appropriate administrative and judicial proceedings.

SEC. 8.105. CERTIFICATION BY A CLERK OF COURT.—Whenever the judgment becomes final of the Court of General Sessions of the District of Columbia or the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in a case in which it is found that any person has engaged in conduct violating this Act or regulations promulgated thereunder, or conduct that is unconscionable or fraudulent and is potentially or actually subject to action under section 8.201(A)(2), the clerk of the court in which the judgment was entered shall certify such finding to the Commissioner or his duly authorized agent. A judgment shall be deemed to have become final for the purposes of this section—

(A) if no appeal is taken from the judgment, upon the expiration of the time within which an appeal could have been taken, or

(B) if an appeal is taken from the judgment, having been sustained, can no longer be appealed from or reviewed on a writ of certiorari.

CIVIL REMEDIES

SEC. 8.201. INJUNCTIONS.—

(A) Any person may be restrained by civil action brought by the Director of the District of Columbia Department of Consumer Protection, or his delegate, or by an aggrieved retail buyer, from—

(1) engaging in conduct or enforcing any contract that violates this Act or any regulations promulgated thereunder, or

(2) engaging in a course of unconscionable or fraudulent conduct in connection with the making or enforcing of retail installment and other consumer credit contracts.