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Direct Marketing Association Guidelines for Ethical Business Practice

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Direct Marketing Association Guidelines for Ethical Business Practice

The Direct Marketing Association's Guidelines for Ethical Business Practice are intended to provide individuals and organizations involved in direct marketing in all media with generally accepted principles of conduct. These guidelines reflect DMA's long-standing policy of high levels of ethics and the responsibility of the Association, its members, and all marketers to maintain consumer and community relationships that are based on fair and ethical principles. In addition to providing general guidance to the industry, the Guidelines for Ethical Business Practice are used by DMA's Committee on Ethical Business Practice, an industry peer review committee, as the standard to which direct marketing promotions that are the subject of complaint to DMA are compared.

These self-regulatory guidelines are intended to be honored in light of their aims and principles. All marketers should support the guidelines in spirit and not treat their provisions as obstacles to be circumvented by legal ingenuity.

These guidelines also represent DMA's general philosophy that self-regulatory measures are preferable to governmental mandates. Self-regulatory actions are more readily adaptable to changing techniques and economic and social conditions. They encourage widespread use of sound business practices.

Because dishonest, misleading or offensive communications discredit all means of advertising and marketing, including direct marketing, observance of these guidelines by all concerned is expected. All persons involved in direct marketing should take reasonable steps to encourage other industry members to follow these guidelines as well.

Revised May 2011

DMA Member Principles

DMA Member Principles are the underlying framework for the Guidelines for Ethical Business Practice as detailed herein, and for Guidelines that will be drafted in the future. These Principles apply to DMA members' relationships with current and prospective customers, donors, and members, and are the grounding for all DMA members, which includes those who market directly not only to consumers, but also to businesses, government agencies, and "SOHO" (small-office/home-office) entities. The Principles provide a general statement to the public of the expectations they can have when dealing with DMA members.

A DMA Member:

1. Is committed to customer satisfaction, good corporate citizenship, and responsible environmental, community and financial stewardship
2. Clearly, honestly, and accurately represents its products, services, terms and conditions
3. Delivers its products and services as represented
4. Communicates in a respectful and courteous manner
5. Responds to inquiries and complaints in a constructive, timely way
6. Maintains appropriate security policies and practices to safeguard information
7. Provides information on its policies about the transfer of personally identifiable information for marketing purposes
8. Honors requests not to have personally identifiable information transferred for marketing purposes
9. Honors requests not to receive future solicitations from its organization
10. Follows the spirit and letter of the law as well as DMA's Guidelines for Ethical Business Practice

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The Terms of the Offer

HONESTY AND CLARITY OF OFFER

Article #1

All offers should be clear, honest, and complete so that the consumer may know the exact nature of what is being offered, the price, the terms of payment (including all extra charges) and the commitment involved in the placing of an order. Before publication of an offer, marketers should be prepared to substantiate any claims or offers made. Advertisements or specific claims that are untrue, misleading, deceptive, or fraudulent should not be used.

ACCURACY AND CONSISTENCY

Article #2

Simple and consistent statements or representations of all the essential points of the offer should appear in the promotional material. The overall impression of an offer should not be contradicted by individual statements, representations, or disclaimers.

CLARITY OF REPRESENTATIONS

Article #3

Representations which, by their size, placement, duration, or other characteristics are unlikely to be noticed or are difficult to understand should not be used if they are material to the offer.

ACTUAL CONDITIONS

Article #4

All descriptions, promises, and claims of limitation should be in accordance with actual conditions, situations, and circumstances existing at the time of the promotion.

DISPARAGEMENT

Article #5

Disparagement of any person or group on grounds addressed by federal or state laws that prohibit discrimination is unacceptable.

DECENCY

Article #6

Solicitations should not be sent to consumers who have indicated to the marketer that they consider those solicitations to be vulgar, immoral, profane, pornographic, or offensive in any way and who do not want to receive them.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ART WORK

Article #7

Photographs, illustrations, artwork, and the situations they describe should be accurate portrayals and current reproductions of the products, services, or other subjects they represent.

DISCLOSURE OF SPONSOR AND INTENT

Article #8

All marketing contacts should disclose the name of the sponsor and each purpose of the contact. No one should make offers or solicitations in the guise of one purpose when the intent is a different purpose regardless of the marketing channel used.

ACCESSIBILITY

Article #9

Every offer should clearly identify the marketer's name and street address or telephone number, or both, at which the individual may obtain service and exercise their marketing preferences. If an offer is made online, the marketer should provide its name, an Internet-based contact mechanism, and a street address. For e-mail solicitations, marketers should comply with Article #40 (Commercial Solicitations Online). For mobile marketing solicitations, marketers should comply with Articles #54-56 to provide adequate notice to consumers to allow them to exercise their marketing preferences.

SOLICITATION IN THE GUISE OF AN INVOICE OR GOVERNMENTAL NOTIFICATION

Article #10

Offers that are likely to be mistaken for bills, invoices, or notices from public utilities or governmental agencies should not be used.

POSTAGE, SHIPPING, OR HANDLING CHARGES

Article #11

Postage, shipping, or handling charges, if any, should bear a reasonable relationship to actual costs incurred.

ADVANCE CONSENT/NEGATIVE OPTION MARKETING

Article #12

These guidelines apply to all media and address marketing plans where the consumer gives consent to receive and pay for goods or services in the future on a continuing or periodic basis, unless and until the consumer cancels the plan.

The following should apply to all advance consent or negative option marketing plans:

1. Initial Offer:

CONSENT:

Regardless of channel, marketers should have the consumer's express informed consent to participate in any advance consent or negative option marketing plan before the consumer is billed or charged. For example, a pre-checked box without further action, such as clicking a response button or sending back a response to confirm individual consent is not sufficient. In telephone sales where the consumer agrees to the offer in a way other than by credit or debit card payment, the consumer consent must be written or audio recorded.

- Marketers should inform consumers in the initial offer of their right to cancel their participation in the plan
- and any outstanding fees that may be owed.
- Marketers should inform consumers in the initial offer of the length of any trial period, including a
- statement that the consumer's account will be charged after the trial period (including the date of the charge) unless the consumer takes an affirmative step to cancel, providing the consumer a reasonable time period to cancel, and the steps needed to avoid charges.

MATERIAL TERMS & CONDITIONS:

Regardless of channel, marketers should clearly and conspicuously disclose all material terms and conditions before obtaining the consumer's billing information, including:

- A description of the goods or services being offered
- The identity of the marketer and contact information for service or cancellation
- The interval between shipments or services to be provided
- The price or the range of prices of the goods or services purchased by the consumer, including whether there are any additional charges should be disclosed
- Whether the consumer will be billed or automatically charged
- When and how frequently the consumer will be billed or charged
- Any terms with regards to a "free to keep" incentive as applicable
- The fact that the consumer must take affirmative action to cancel in order to avoid future billing or charges
- The specific and easy steps that consumers should follow to cancel the plan and to stop recurring charges from being placed on the consumer's account, and
- The time period within which the consumer must cancel.

When applicable, the following terms and conditions should also be clearly and conspicuously disclosed in the initial offer:

- That the current plan or renewal prices of the goods or services are subject to change
- The length of any free, trial or approval period in time or quantity
- The length of membership period, and the length of subsequent renewal or billing periods
- The fact that goods or services will continue after the free period unless the consumer cancels
- Any minimum purchase obligations, and
- The terms and conditions of any refund policy

In instances where the marketer uses pre-acquired account information under a free-to-pay conversion plan, the marketer should:

- Obtain from the consumer the complete account number to be charged within the appropriate data security protocols (such as PCI compliance)
- Obtain affirmative consent from the consumer to charge such account, and
- Provide channel specific proof (an email or hard copy confirmation, or if via telephone, audio record the entire transaction.)

In instances where the marketer uses pre-acquired account information but does not engage in a free-to-pay conversion plan, the marketer should:

- Identify with specificity the account that will be charged, and
- Obtain affirmative consent from the consumer to charge such account

2. Providing the Goods & Services to the Consumer:

- Marketers may provide products or services and bills concurrently; however, consumers should not be obligated to pay bills prior to the expiration of any trial period.
- Marketers should inform consumers in renewal reminders of their right to cancel their participation in the plan, and any outstanding fees owed.
- Marketers should provide renewal reminders at the frequency specified in the initial offer.

3. Cancellation:

- Marketers should promptly honor requests for refunds due upon consumers' cancellation of the plan.
- Marketers should allow consumers a reasonable length of time between receipt of renewal reminders and the renewal date, after which consumers can cancel the plan.
- Marketers should honor the time period they provided for a cancellation and should honor a cancellation after the expiration of the trial period.

4. For Internet Sales:

The initial merchant must never disclose a credit card, debit card or other financial account number or other billing information that is used to charge the customer of the initial merchant to any post-transaction third party seller for use in an Internet-based sale of any goods or services from that post-transaction third party seller.

Post Transaction Third Party Sales:

For post-transaction third party sellers:

No charges should apply to a consumer's account before obtaining the consumer's billing information as follows:

The third party seller has first clearly and conspicuously disclosed to the purchaser a description of the goods and services being offered and all material terms of the offer including:

- The fact that the third party seller is not affiliated with the initial merchant;
- The costs of such goods or services;
- And the consumer has provided express informed consent for the charges by providing the complete account information to be charged, providing the consumer's name and address and a means to contact the consumer, and providing confirmation such as clicking a confirmation button or otherwise demonstrating consent to the charges.

All marketing partners or service providers should comply with these guidelines.

Marketing to Children

MARKETING TO CHILDREN

Article #13

Offers and the manner in which they are presented that are suitable for adults only should not be made to children. In determining the suitability of a communication with children online, via wireless devices such as a mobile phone or in any other medium, marketers should predetermine whether the use of the child's data for marketing purposes or the sending of marketing material to the child is permitted under federal law, such as the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), or state law. Where marketing to children is permitted by law, marketers should ensure the marketing is suitable for the child taking into account the age range, knowledge, sophistication, and maturity of their intended audience.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CHOICE

Article #14

Marketers should provide notice and an opportunity to opt out of the marketing process so that parents have the ability to limit the collection, use, and disclosure of their children's names, addresses, or other personally identifiable information.

INFORMATION FROM OR ABOUT CHILDREN

Article #15

Marketers should take into account the age range, knowledge, sophistication, and maturity of children when collecting information from them. Marketers should limit the collection, use, and dissemination of information collected from or about children to information required for the promotion, sale, and delivery of goods and services, provision of customer services, conducting market research, and engaging in other appropriate marketing activities.

Marketers should effectively explain that the information is being requested for marketing purposes. Information not appropriate for marketing purposes should not be collected.

Upon request from a parent, marketers should promptly provide the source and general nature of information maintained about a child. Marketers should implement strict security measures to ensure against unauthorized access, alteration, or dissemination of the data collected from or about children, and should provide information regarding such measures upon request to the parent or guardian of the minor.

MARKETING ONLINE TO CHILDREN UNDER 13 YEARS OF AGE

Article #16

Marketers should not knowingly collect personally identifiable information online or via wireless handsets or devices from a child under 13 without prior parental consent or direct parental notification of the nature and intended use of such information, and shall provide an opportunity for the parent to prevent such use and participation in the activity. Online and wireless/mobile contact information should only be used to directly respond to an activity initiated by a child and not to recontact a child for other purposes without prior parental consent. However, a marketer may contact and get information from a child for the purpose of obtaining parental consent.

Marketers should not knowingly collect, without prior parental consent, personally identifiable information online or via a wireless handset or device from children that would permit any offline contact with the child.

Marketers should not knowingly distribute to third parties, without prior parental consent, information collected from a child that would permit any contact with that child.

Marketers should take reasonable steps to prevent the online publication or posting of information that would allow a third party to contact a child offline unless the marketer has prior parental consent.

Marketers should not entice a child to divulge personally identifiable information by the prospect of a special game, prize, or other offer.

Marketers should not make a child's access to website or mobile content contingent on the collection of personally identifiable information. Only online contact information used to enhance the interactivity of the site is permitted.

The following assumptions underlie these online guidelines:

- When a marketer directs a site at a certain age group, it can expect that the visitors to that site are in that age range, and
- When a marketer asks the age of the child, the marketer can assume the answer to be truthful.

Special Offers and Claims

USE OF THE WORD “FREE” AND OTHER SIMILAR REPRESENTATIONS

Article #17

A product or service that is offered without cost or obligation to the recipient may be unqualifiedly described as “free.”

If a product or service is offered as “free,” all qualifications and conditions should be clearly and conspicuously disclosed, in close conjunction with the use of the term “free” or other similar phrase. When the term “free” or other similar representations are made (for example, 2-for-1, half-price, or 1-cent offers), the product or service required to be purchased should not have been increased in price or decreased in quality or quantity.

PRICE COMPARISONS

Article #18

Price comparisons, including those between a marketer’s current price and a former, future, or suggested price, or between a marketer’s price and the price of a competitor’s comparable product, should be fair and accurate.

In each case of comparison to a former, manufacturer’s suggested, or competitor’s comparable product price, recent substantial sales should have been made at that price in the same trade area.

For comparisons with a future price, there should be a reasonable expectation that the new price will be charged in the foreseeable future.

GUARANTEES

Article #19

If a product or service is offered with a guarantee or a warranty, either the terms and conditions should be set forth in full in the promotion, or the promotion should state how the consumer may obtain a copy. The guarantee should clearly state the name and address of the guarantor and the duration of the guarantee.

Any requests for repair, replacement, or refund under the terms of a guarantee or warranty should be honored promptly. In an unqualified offer of refund, repair, or replacement, the customer’s preference should prevail.

USE OF TEST OR SURVEY DATA

Article #20

All test or survey data referred to in advertising should be valid and reliable as to source and methodology, and should support the specific claim for which it is cited. Advertising claims should not distort test or survey results or take them out of context.

TESTIMONIALS AND ENDORSEMENTS

Article #21

Testimonials and endorsements in any media (including but not limited to such comments on a company's website and via social networking sites, online message boards, blogging and "word-of-mouth" marketing) should be used only if they:

- a. Are authorized by the person quoted;
- b. Are accurate, genuine and related to the experience of the person giving them, both at the time made and at the time of the promotion, and disclose the expertise of the endorser in terms of whether he or she is an expert for the purposes of the advertisement or simply a consumer endorser;
- c. Are not taken out of context so as to distort the endorser's opinion or experience with the product or service;
- d. Clearly and conspicuously disclose any material connections between the endorser and marketer, which the consumer would not expect. A material connection refers to a connection between the endorser and marketer that materially affects the weight or credibility of the endorsement, such as payments or free products, or an employer/employee relationship; and
- e. Clearly and conspicuously disclose the generally expected, or typical, results/performance of the advertised products or services, if the claims made are not typical of what a user could expect under normal circumstances.

A marketer should be able to provide prior and adequate substantiation, including providing reliable scientific evidence, as necessary, for any claims of efficacy (i.e. whether the product/service will actually do what the marketer says it will do, typicality (i.e. whether the typical consumer will have an experience like that of the endorser), and environmental benefit. The marketer should also be able to substantiate that the endorser was a bona fide user of the product at the time of the endorsement.

Additionally, marketers should ensure that their celebrity endorsers disclose their relationships with marketers when making endorsements outside the context of traditional advertisements, such as on talk shows or in social media, and they should not knowingly make statements that are false or unsubstantiated.

For purposes of this article, the terms "testimonial" and "endorsement" refer to an advertising or marketing message made in any channel that consumers are likely to believe reflects the opinions, beliefs, findings, or experiences of a party other than the sponsor of the message, even if the views expressed by that party are identical to those of the sponsor. Testimonials and endorsements can be verbal statements, demonstrations, or depictions of the name, signature, likeness or other identifying personal characteristics of an individual or the name or seal of an organization.

Sweepstakes

USE OF THE TERM “SWEEPSTAKES”

Article #22

Sweepstakes are promotional devices by which items of value (prizes) are awarded to participants by chance without the promoter's requiring the participants to render something of value (consideration) to be eligible to participate. The co-existence of all three elements -- prize, chance and consideration -- in the same promotion constitutes a lottery. It is illegal for any private enterprise to run a lottery without specific governmental authorization.

When skill replaces chance, the promotion becomes a skill contest. When gifts (premiums or other items of value) are given to all participants independent of the element of chance, the promotion is not a sweepstakes. Promotions that are not sweepstakes should not be held out as such.

Only those promotional devices that satisfy the definition stated above should be called or held out to be a sweepstakes.

NO PURCHASE OPTION

Article #23

Promotions should clearly state that no purchase is required to win sweepstakes prizes. They should not represent that those who make a purchase or otherwise render consideration with their entry will have a better chance of winning or will be eligible to win more or larger prizes than those who do not make a purchase or otherwise render consideration. The method for entering without ordering should be easy to find, read, and understand. When response devices used only for entering the sweepstakes are provided, they should be as easy to find as those utilized for ordering the product or service.

CHANCES OF WINNING

Article #24

No sweepstakes promotion, or any of its parts, should represent that a recipient or entrant has won a prize or that any entry stands a greater chance of winning a prize than any other entry when this is not the case. Winners should be selected in a manner that ensures fair application of the laws of chance.

PRIZES

Article #25

Sweepstakes prizes should be advertised in a manner that is clear, honest, and complete so that the consumer may know the exact nature of what is being offered. For prizes paid over time, the annual payment schedule and number of years should be clearly disclosed.

Photographs, illustrations, artwork, and the situations they represent should be accurate portrayals of the prizes listed in the promotion.

No award or prize should be held forth directly or by implication as having substantial monetary value if it is of nominal worth. The value of a non-cash prize should be stated at regular retail value, whether actual cost to the sponsor is greater or less.

All prizes should be awarded and delivered without cost to the participant. If there are certain conditions under which a prize or prizes will not be awarded, that fact should be disclosed in a manner that is easy to find, read, and understand.

PREMIUMS

Article #26

Premiums should be advertised in a manner that is clear, honest, and complete so that the consumer may know the exact nature of what is being offered.

A premium, gift or item should not be called or held out to be a “prize” if it is offered to every recipient of or participant in a promotion. If all participants will receive a premium, gift, or item, that fact should be clearly disclosed.

DISCLOSURE OF RULES

Article #27

All terms and conditions of the sweepstakes, including entry procedures and rules, should be easy to find, read, and understand. Disclosures set out in the rules section concerning no purchase option, prizes, and chances of winning should not contradict the overall impression created by the promotion.

The following should be set forth clearly in the rules:

- No purchase of the advertised product or service is required in order to win a prize
- A purchase will not improve the chances of winning
- Procedures for entry
- If applicable, disclosure that a facsimile of the entry blank or other alternate means (such as a 3”x 5” card) may be used to enter the sweepstakes
- The termination date for eligibility in the sweepstakes. The termination date should specify whether it is a date of mailing or receipt of entry deadline
- The number, retail value (of non-cash prizes), and complete description of all prizes offered, and whether cash may be awarded instead of merchandise. If a cash prize is to be awarded by installment payments, that fact should be clearly disclosed, along with the nature and timing of the payments
- The estimated odds of winning each prize. If the odds depend upon the number of entries, the stated odds should be based on an estimate of the number of entries
- The method by which winners will be selected
- The geographic area covered by the sweepstakes and those areas in which the offer is void
- All eligibility requirements, if any
- Approximate dates when winners will be selected and notified
- Publicity rights regarding the use of winner’s name
- Taxes are the responsibility of the winner
- Provision of a mailing address to allow consumers to receive a list of winners of prizes over \$25.00 in value

Fulfillment

UNORDERED MERCHANDISE OR SERVICE

Article #28

Merchandise or services should not be provided without having first received the customer's permission. The exceptions are samples or gifts clearly marked as such, and merchandise mailed by a charitable organization soliciting contributions, as long as all items are sent with a clear and conspicuous statement informing the recipient of an unqualified right to treat the product as a gift and to do with it as the recipient sees fit, at no cost or obligation to the recipient.

PRODUCT AVAILABILITY AND SHIPMENT

Article #29

Direct marketers should offer merchandise only when it is on hand or when there is a reasonable expectation of its timely receipt.

Direct marketers should ship all orders according to the terms of the offer or within 30 days where there is no promised shipping date, unless otherwise directed by the consumer, and should promptly notify consumers of any delays.

DRY TESTING

Article #30

Direct marketers should engage in dry testing only when the special nature of the offer is made clear in the promotion.

Collection, Use, and Maintenance of Marketing Data

For purposes of the *Guidelines for Ethical Business Practice*, the following definitions are used:

Consumer refers to the subject of the data.

Marketing data means actual or inferred information consistent with a person's commercial or charitable inquiry or transaction, or market research or market survey information. Such information can be derived from either a direct contact or marketing partnership when linked to a person's name, postal or e-mail address, or telephone number, or any other personally identifiable information. When obtained from a publicly available source, information (including public record information), not combined with other information, is not marketing data.

Marketing purpose means any activity undertaken to collect, aggregate, analyze, maintain, update, or sell information in order to allow or induce consumers to take action to purchase, rent, or exchange products, property or services, to solicit a charitable donation, to utilize market research or market surveys, or to provide verification services to marketers.

PROVIDING CONSUMER CHOICE & THE COLLECTION, USE, AND TRANSFER OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE DATA

Article #31

This article is applicable to all addressable media and applies to senders of marketing offers or fundraising solicitations:

A. Providing Consumer Choice and Privacy Notice Information:

- Marketers should provide consumers a point of contact where they may add, modify or eliminate direct marketing communications from a company or an organization and obtain the company or organization's privacy policy with regards to collection, use and transfer of their information. The point of contact information (such as a website, telephone number or address) should appear upon or within each written marketing offer, or upon request by the consumer.
- Online marketers should provide notice in accordance with Article #38.
- Email marketers should provide notice in accordance with Article #39 and the CAN-SPAM Act.
- Mobile marketers must obtain prior express consent and provide a notice in accordance with Articles #54 and #55.)
- The point of contact notice should: be easy for the consumer to find, read, understand, and act upon.
- A marketer periodically should provide existing customers with notice of its policy concerning the rental, sale, exchange, or transfer of data about them and of the opportunity to opt out of the marketing process. All such opt-out requests should be honored promptly.
- An in-house suppression request from a consumer should be interpreted as meaning that the consumer also wants to opt out of the transfer of his or her personal information
- Upon request by a consumer, a marketer should disclose the source from which it obtained personally identifiable information about that consumer.

B. Processing Consumer Choices:

- A consumer's request for elimination of future marketing offers should be processed:
 - within 30 days of the consumer's request or as required by law, whichever is the shorter time period
 - for a period of at least three years from the date of receipt of the request
- Where an affiliate, division, or subsidiary markets under a different company or brand name, and is perceived as separate by the consumer, each corporate entity or brand should separately honor requests received by it.
- A marketer should establish internal policies and practices that assure accountability for honoring consumer preference requests regardless of the marketing channel, in compliance with this guideline, and at no cost to consumers. Should those policies substantially change, the marketer has an obligation to inform consumers of that change prior to the rental, sale, exchange, or transfer of data, and to offer consumers an opportunity to opt out of the marketing process at that time.

C. DMAchoice and Related Consumer Choice Files:

- For each prospecting list that is rented, sold, exchanged, or transferred, the names registered on the applicable DMAchoice (DMA's consumer choice web site) name-removal lists should be removed prior to use.
- DMAchoice name-removal lists include:
 - the relevant categorical opt-out mailing lists for Catalog, Magazine, Pre-screened Credit Offers or Other categories, as well as future categories designated by the DMA; and
 - the eMail Preference Service and Telephone Preference Service, as well as future DMA preference service lists.
- The use of the DMAchoice name-removal lists and preference service lists is not required for the company's and organization's existing customer or donor lists, only for prospects.
- Members should be listed on the DMAchoice site to demonstrate their compliance with the DMA Guidelines and to provide a direct connection to consumers for further choice requests.
 - The company or organization listed must provide the correct point of contact where the consumer may exercise their marketing preferences. (See Also Article #9 Accessibility: Every offer should clearly identify the marketer's name and street address or telephone number, or both, at which the individual may obtain service and exercise their marketing preferences.)

In all instances, the most recent monthly release of the relevant DMAchoice file should be used.

In addition to adhering to these guidelines, a marketer should cooperate with DMA when requested in demonstrating its compliance with the Commitment to Consumer Choice and the marketer's own consumer preference policies.

PERSONAL DATA

Article #32

Marketers should be sensitive to the issue of consumer privacy and should only collect, combine, rent, sell, exchange, or use marketing data. Marketing data should be used only for marketing purposes.

Data and selection criteria that by reasonable standards may be considered sensitive and/or intimate should not be disclosed, be displayed, or provide the basis for lists made available for rental, sale or exchange when there is a reasonable expectation by the consumer that the information will be kept confidential.

Credit card numbers, checking account numbers, and debit account numbers are considered to be personal information and therefore should not be transferred, rented, sold, or exchanged when there is a reasonable expectation by the consumer that the information will be kept confidential. Because of the confidential nature of such personally identifying numbers, they should not be publicly displayed on direct marketing promotions or otherwise made public by direct marketers.

Social Security numbers are also considered to be personal information and therefore should not be transferred, rented, sold, or exchanged for use by a third party when there is a reasonable expectation by the consumer that the information will be kept confidential. Because of the confidential nature of Social Security numbers, they should not be publicly displayed on direct marketing promotions or otherwise made public by direct marketers. Social Security numbers, however, are used by direct marketers as part of the process of extending credit to consumers or for matching or verification purposes.

COLLECTION, USE, AND TRANSFER OF HEALTH-RELATED DATA

Article #33

Health-related data constitute information related to consumers':

- Illnesses or conditions
- Treatments for those illnesses or conditions, such as prescription drugs, medical procedures, devices or supplies or
- Treatments received from doctors (or other health care providers), at hospitals, at clinics, or at other medical treatment facilities

These fair information practices and principles apply to any individual or entity that collects, maintains, uses, and/or transfers health-related data for marketing purposes, whether or not marketing is a primary purpose. These principles are applicable to nonprofit as well as for-profit entities.

1. Personally identifiable health-related data gained in the context of a relationship between consumers and health or medical care providers or medical treatment facilities should not be transferred for marketing purposes without the specific prior consent of those consumers. Health or medical care providers include licensed health care practitioners, such as doctors, nurses, psychologists, pharmacists, and counselors, and those who support health care providers and therefore have access to personally identifiable information, such as insurance companies, pharmacy benefits managers or other business partners, and businesses that sell prescription drugs.

2. Personally identifiable health-related data, including the occurrence of childbirth, gained in the context of a relationship between consumers and health or medical care providers or medical treatment facilities (as defined in #1) should not be used to contact those consumers for marketing purposes without giving consumers a clear notice of the marketer's intended uses of the data and the opportunity to request not to be so contacted.
3. Personally identifiable health-related data volunteered by consumers, and gathered outside of the relationship between consumers and health care providers, should also be considered sensitive and personal in nature. Such data should not be collected, maintained, used, and/or transferred for marketing purposes unless those consumers receive, at the time the data are collected, a clear notice of the marketer's intended uses of the data, whether the marketer will transfer the data to third parties for further use, the name of the collecting organization, and the opportunity to opt out of transfer of the data. Such data include, but are not limited to, data volunteered by consumers when responding to surveys and questionnaires. Clear notice should be easy to find, read, and understand.
4. Personally identifiable health-related data inferred about consumers, and gathered outside of the relationship between consumers and health care providers, should also be considered sensitive and personal in nature. These are data based on consumers' purchasing behavior. Such data include, but are not limited to, data captured by inquiries, donations, purchases, frequent shopper programs, advertised toll-free telephone numbers, or other consumer response devices. Any entity, including a seller of over-the-counter drugs, which uses inferred health-related data should promptly provide notice and the opportunity to opt out of any transfer of the data for marketing purposes.
5. Marketers using personally identifiable health-related data should provide both the source and the nature of the information they have about that consumer, upon request of that consumer and receipt of that consumer's proper identification.
6. Consumers should not be required to release personally identifiable health-related information about themselves to be used for marketing purposes as a condition of receiving insurance coverage, treatment or information, or otherwise completing their health care-related transaction.
7. The text, appearance, and nature of solicitations directed to consumers on the basis of health-related data should take into account the sensitive nature of such data.
8. Marketers should ensure that safeguards are built into their systems to protect personally identifiable health-related data from unauthorized access, alteration, abuse, theft, or misappropriation. Employees who have access to personally identifiable health-related data should agree in advance to use those data only in an authorized manner.
9. If personally identifiable health-related data are transferred from one direct marketer to another for a marketing purpose, the transferor should arrange strict security measures to assure that unauthorized access to the data is not likely during the transfer process. Transfers of personally identifiable health-related data should not be permitted for any marketing uses that are in violation of any of DMA's *Guidelines for Ethical Business Practice*.

Nothing in these guidelines is meant to prohibit research, marketing, or other uses of health-related data which are not personally identifiable, and which are used in the aggregate.

PROMOTION OF MARKETING LISTS

Article #34

Any advertising or promotion for marketing lists being offered for rental, sale, or exchange should reflect the fact that a marketing list is an aggregate collection of marketing data. Such promotions should also reflect a sensitivity for the consumers on those lists.

MARKETING LIST USAGE

Article #35

List owners, brokers, managers, and users of marketing lists should ascertain the nature of the list's intended usage for each materially different marketing use prior to rental, sale, exchange, transfer, or use of the list. List owners, brokers, and managers should not permit the rental, sale, exchange, or transfer of their marketing lists, nor should users use any marketing lists for an offer that is in violation of these guidelines. Mobile opt-in lists should not be rented or exchanged for the purpose of sending mobile marketing solicitations to those on the list, without obtaining prior express consent from those on the list.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DATABASE COMPILERS

Article #36

For purposes of this guideline, a database compiler is a company that assembles personally identifiable information about consumers (with whom the compiler has no direct relationship) for the purpose of facilitating renting, selling, or exchanging the information to non-affiliated third party organizations for marketing purposes. Customer refers to those marketers that use the database compiler's data. Consumer refers to the subject of the data.

Database compilers should:

- Establish written (or electronic) agreements with customers that define the rights and responsibilities of the compiler and customer with respect to the use of marketing data.
- Upon a consumer's request, and within a reasonable time, suppress the consumer's information from the compiler's and/or the applicable customer's database made available to customers for prospecting.
- Not prohibit an end-user marketer from divulging the database compiler as the source of the marketer's information.
- At a minimum, explain to consumers, upon their request for source information, the nature and types of sources they use to compile marketing databases.
- Include language in their written (or electronic) agreements with DMA member customers that requires compliance with applicable laws and DMA guidelines. For non-DMA member customers they should require compliance with applicable laws and encourage compliance with DMA's guidelines. In both instances, customers should agree before using the marketing data.
- Require customers to state the purpose for which the data will be used.
- Use marketing data only for marketing purposes. If the data are non-marketing data but are used for marketing purposes, they should be treated as marketing data for purposes of this guideline.

- For sensitive marketing data, compilers should review materials to be used in promotions to help ensure that their customers' use of the data is both appropriate and in accordance with their stated purpose. Sensitive marketing data include data pertaining to children, older adults, health care or treatment, account numbers, or financial transactions.
- Randomly monitor, through seeding or other means, the use of their marketing databases to ensure that customers use them in accordance with their stated purpose.
- If a database compiler is or becomes aware that a customer is using consumer data in a way that violates the law and/or DMA's ethics guidelines, it should contact the customer and require compliance for any continued data usage, or refuse to sell the data and/or refer the matter to the DMA and/or a law enforcement agency.

INFORMATION SECURITY

Article #37

The protection of personally identifiable information is the responsibility of all marketers. Therefore, marketing companies should assume the following responsibilities to provide secure transactions for consumers and to protect databases containing consumers' personally identifiable information against unauthorized access, alteration, or dissemination of data:

- Marketers should establish information security policies and practices that assure the uninterrupted security of information systems.
- Marketers should create and implement staff policies, procedures, training, and responsiveness measures to protect personally identifiable information handled in the everyday performance of duties.
- Marketers should employ and routinely reassess protective physical safeguards and technological measures, including data retention, destruction, and deletion practices, in support of information security.
- Marketers should contractually require all business partners and service providers that handle personally identifiable information to ensure that their policies, procedures, and practices maintain a level of security consistent with the marketer's applicable information security policies.
- Marketers should, in the event of a security breach where there is a reasonable likelihood of material harm to consumers, inform those consumers who may be affected as soon as reasonably practical, unless requested by legal authorities to delay such notification.

Digital Marketing

ONLINE INFORMATION & ONLINE BEHAVIORAL ADVERTISING

Article #38

This Article addresses the collection of personally identifiable information by websites for online marketing and the collection and use of information for online behavioral advertising purposes, as defined in the Glossary of Terms.

General Notice to Online Visitors

If your organization operates an online site and/or is engaged in online behavioral advertising, you should make your information practices available to visitors in a prominent place on your website's home page or in a place on your website that is easily accessible from the home page. The notice about information practices on your website should be easy to find, read, and understand. Visitors should be able to comprehend the scope of the notice and how they can exercise their choices regarding use of personally identifiable information or information used for online behavioral advertising purposes. The notice should be available prior to or at the time personally identifiable information or information used for online behavioral advertising purposes is collected.

Your organization and its postal address, and the website(s) to which the notice applies, should be identified so visitors know who is responsible for the website. You also should provide specific contact information so visitors can contact your organization for service or information.

If your organization collects personally identifiable information from visitors and/or collects information from non-affiliate websites for online behavioral advertising purposes, your notice should include:

- The nature of the information collected online for marketing purposes, and the types of uses you make of such information, including uses for online behavioral advertising purposes;
- The use(s) of such information, including whether you transfer information to third parties for use by them for their own marketing or online behavioral advertising purposes and the mechanism by which consumers can exercise choice not to have such information transferred;
- Whether personally identifiable information is collected by, used by, or transferred to agents (entities working on your behalf) as part of the business activities related to the visitor's actions on the site, including to fulfill orders or to provide information or requested services;
- Whether you use cookies or other passive means of information collection, and whether such information collected is for internal purposes or transferred to third parties for marketing purposes, including online behavioral advertising purposes;
- What procedures your organization has put in place for accountability and enforcement purposes; and
- That your organization maintains appropriate physical, electronic, and administrative safeguards to protect information collected online.

In addition, marketers should refer to Article #32 (Personal Data) specifically to assure that marketing data are used only for marketing purposes.

Third-Party Notice for Online Behavioral Advertising

When information is collected from or used on a website for online behavioral advertising purposes, visitors should be provided with notice (easy to find, read and understand) about the third party's policies for online behavioral advertising. Third parties, as defined in the Glossary of Terms, should provide notice in one of the following ways:

- through a clear, meaningful, and prominent link described in or proximate to the advertisement delivered on the Web page where information is collected;
- on DMA's approved website(s), such as DMAchoice.org or another comprehensive industry-developed website(s), that is linked from the disclosure that describes the fact that information is being collected for online behavioral advertising purposes;
- on the web page where the information is collected if there is an arrangement with the website operator for the provision of such notice;
- if agreed to by the operator of the website(s) on its web page disclosing notice and choice regarding information collected for online behavioral advertising purposes.

Consumer Choice for Third-Party Online Behavioral Advertising

A third party should provide consumers with the ability to exercise choice with respect to the collection and use of information for online behavioral advertising purposes or the transfer of such information to a non-affiliate for such purposes. Such choice should be available through the notice options as detailed above.

Material Changes to Existing Policies

If your organization's policy changes materially with respect to the sharing of personally identifiable information with third parties including but not limited to changes for online behavioral advertising purposes, you should update your policy and give consumers conspicuous notice to that effect, offering an opportunity for individuals to select their preferences. Prior to making a materially different use of information collected from an individual for online behavioral advertising purposes, and before notice of your organization's policy change is given, organizations should obtain informed consent to such a new marketing use from the consumer.

Honoring Choice

You should honor a website visitor's choice regarding use and transfer of personally identifiable information made in accordance with your stated policy. If you have promised to honor the visitor's choice for a specific time period, and if that time period subsequently expires, then you should provide that visitor with a new notice and choice. You should provide choices online. You may also offer choice options by mail or telephone.

Providing Access

You should honor any representations made in your online policy notice regarding access.

Information Security

Your organization should maintain appropriate physical, technical and administrative safeguards and use appropriate security technologies and methods to protect information collected or used online, and to guard against unauthorized access, alteration, or dissemination of personally identifiable information during transfer and storage. Your procedures should require that employees and agents of your organization who have access to personally identifiable information use and disclose that information only in a lawful and authorized manner. Organizations should retain information that is collected and used for online behavioral advertising purposes only for as long as necessary to fulfill a legitimate business need, or as required by law.

Visitors Under 13 Years of Age

If your organization has a site directed to children under the age of 13 or collects personally identifiable information from visitors known to be under 13 years of age, your website should take the additional steps required by the Marketing to Children Articles of the Guidelines for Ethical Business Practice and inform visitors that your disclosures and practices are subject to compliance with the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (“COPPA”). In addition, an organization should not engage in online behavioral advertising directed to children where it has actual knowledge that the children are under the age of 13, unless compliant with COPPA and these Guidelines.

Health and Financial Information

Entities should not collect and use financial account numbers, Social Security numbers, pharmaceutical prescriptions, or medical records about a specific individual for online behavioral advertising purposes without prior express consent and unless compliant with the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (“HIPPA”) and these Guidelines.

Accountability

There should be a meaningful, timely, and effective procedure through which your organization can demonstrate adherence to your stated online information practices. Such a procedure may include: (1) self or third-party verification and monitoring, (2) complaint resolution, and (3) education and outreach. This can be accomplished by an independent auditor, public self-certification, a third-party privacy seal program, a licensing program, and/or membership in a trade, professional or other membership association with a self-regulatory program.

Service Provider Treatment of Online Behavioral Advertising Information

A service provider, as defined in the Glossary of Terms, should not collect and use information for online behavioral advertising purposes without consent and should provide an easy-to-use ongoing means to withdraw consent to the collection and use of that information for online behavioral advertising purposes.

In addition, a service provider should take the following steps regarding information collected and used for online behavioral advertising purposes:

1. Alter, anonymize, or randomize (e.g., through “hashing” or substantial redaction) any personally identifiable information or unique identifier in order to prevent the information from being reconstructed into its original form in the ordinary course of business.
2. Disclose in the notice described above the circumstances in which information is collected and used for online behavioral advertising purposes.
3. Take reasonable steps to protect the non-identifiable nature of information if and when it is distributed to non-affiliates, including not disclosing the algorithm or other mechanism used for anonymizing or randomizing the information, and obtaining satisfactory written assurance that such non-affiliates will not attempt to re-construct the information and will use or disclose the anonymized information only for purposes of online behavioral advertising or other uses as specified to users. This assurance will be considered satisfied if a non-affiliate does not have any independent right to use the information for its own purposes under a written contract.
4. Take reasonable steps to ensure that any non-affiliate that receives anonymized information will itself ensure that any other non-affiliate to which such information is disclosed agrees to the restrictions and conditions set forth in this subsection. This obligation is also considered satisfied if a non-affiliate does not have any independent right to use the data for its own purposes under a written contract.

Glossary of Terms

Ad Delivery – means the delivery of online advertisements or advertising-related services using ad reporting data. Ad delivery does not include the collection and use of ad reporting data when such data are used to deliver advertisements to a computer or device based on the preferences or interests inferred from information collected over time and across non-affiliate sites because this type of collection and use is covered by the definition of online behavioral advertising.

Ad Reporting – refers to the logging of page views on a website(s) or the collection or use of other information about a browser, operating system, domain name, clickstream within a site, date and time of the viewing of the Web page or advertisement, and related information for purposes including but not limited to: statistical reporting in connection with the activity on a website(s); Web analytics and analysis for improved marketing and better site design; and logging the number and type of advertisements served on a particular website(s).

Affiliate – refers to an entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, another entity.

Consent – means an individual’s action in response to a clear, meaningful and prominent notice regarding the collection and use of data for online behavioral advertising purposes. Informed consent is based on information provided to an individual that allows them to select their preferences, prior express consent means consent required from an individual prior to any marketing communication from the marketer or others.

Contextual Advertising – Advertising based on a consumer’s current visit to a Web page or search query. Online behavioral advertising, as defined in this Article’s Glossary of Terms, does not include contextual advertising.

Control – of an entity means that one entity (1) is under significant common ownership or operational control of the other entity, or (2) has the power to exercise a controlling influence over the management or policies of the other entity. In addition, for an entity to be under the control of another entity and thus be treated as a first party under these principles, the entity must adhere to online behavioral advertising policies that are not materially inconsistent with the other entity’s policies.

First Party – is the entity that is the owner of the website, or those of its affiliates, and has control over the website with which the consumer interacts.

Online Behavioral Advertising – means the collection of information from a particular computer or device regarding Web viewing behaviors over time and across non-affiliate websites for the purpose of using such information to predict user preferences or interests to deliver advertising to that computer or device based on the preferences or interests inferred from such Web viewing behaviors. Online behavioral advertising does not include the activities of first parties, ad delivery or ad reporting, or contextual advertising (i.e. advertising based on the content of the Web page being visited, a consumer’s current visit to a Web page, or a search query). The activities of search engines fall within the scope of online behavioral advertising to the extent that they include collection of data regarding Web viewing behaviors over time and across non-affiliate websites in order to deliver advertising to that computer or device based on the preferences or interests inferred from such Web viewing behaviors.

Personally Identifiable Information & Non-Personally Identifiable Information – for purposes of this Article, personally identifiable information refers to name, address, or other information that identifies a specific individual; non-personally identifiable information (non-PII) refers to information, such as a computer’s IP address, that does not

tie the information to a specific individual. Non-personally identifiable information collected by third parties from websites for online behavioral advertising should be combined with personally identifiable information collected about an individual for marketing purposes only with that individual's consent, unless the individual was provided with notice and choice with respect to such potential combination at the time the non-personally identifiable information was collected and did not opt out.

Service Provider – refers to an organization that collects and uses information from all or substantially all URLs traversed by a Web browser across websites for purposes of online behavioral advertising. Examples of service providers in this context are internet access service providers and providers of desktop applications software such as Web browser “tool bars.”

Third Party – an entity is a third party to the extent that it engages in online behavioral advertising on a non-affiliate's website.

MOBILE SERVICE COMMERCIAL MESSAGE SOLICITATIONS (MSCMs) DELIVERED TO A WIRELESS DEVICE

Article #39

A Mobile Service Commercial Message (MSCM) is a commercial electronic mail message that is transmitted directly to a wireless device that is utilized by a subscriber of a commercial mobile service. Marketers sending MSCMs messages should obtain prior express consent from recipients and should abide by CAN-SPAM, the Federal Communications Commission's Wireless Email Rule, DMA Guidelines for Online & Mobile Marketing, and any additional federal and state regulations.

COMMERCIAL SOLICITATIONS ONLINE

Article #40

1. DEFINITION:

This article refers to addressable commercial solicitations initiated online by marketers (or their affiliates); including commercial solicitations sent to an individual's email address or another “direct contact point.” For purposes of this article, a “direct contact point” is defined as a user ID or other unique identifier at which an individual can be communicated with online or via a mobile Internet device. This may include, for example, a text message number, personalized activity feed identifier (e.g., “twitter” ID), or user ID for postings on or to a personal social network profile page.

Nothing in this Article or definition is meant to restrict or prohibit the use of aggregated or anonymized data pertaining to direct contact points, the use of profile data for online behavioral advertising (OBA,) or online banner advertising.

2. CHANNEL APPROPRIATE CONSENT:

Marketers (or their affiliates) may initiate commercial solicitations online to customers or prospects under the following circumstances

- individuals have given their channel-appropriate consent to the marketer (including, but not limited to, through the terms of a social media platform) to receive solicitations online, or

- Individuals did not opt out after the marketer has given notice of the opportunity to opt out from receiving solicitations online, or
- The marketer has received assurance from the third party list provider that the individuals whose e-mail addresses or other direct contact points appear on that list:
 - have given their channel-appropriate consent to receive solicitations online, or
 - have already received notice of the opportunity to opt out from receiving online solicitations and have not opted out, and DMA's E-Mail Preference Service (E-MPS) suppression file was used by the third party.

3. CHANNEL APPROPRIATE CHOICE:

Marketers should furnish individuals with the appropriate notice or a point of contact and an Internet-based mechanism individuals can use to:

- Request that the marketer not send them future online solicitations and
- Request that the marketer not rent, sell, or exchange their e-mail addresses or other direct contact point data for online solicitation purposes.

If individuals request that they be added to the marketer's in-house suppression list, then the marketer may not rent, sell, or exchange their e-mail addresses or other direct contact point data with third parties for solicitation purposes.

The above requests should be honored within 10 business days, and the marketer's opt-out mechanism should be active for at least 30 days from the date of the solicitation.

Marketers that rent, sell, or exchange personally identifiable information need to provide individuals with notice of a mechanism to opt out of personally identifiable information transfer to third-party marketers.

Solicitations sent via e-mail should disclose the marketer's identity and street address. The subject and "from" lines should be clear, honest, and not misleading, and the subject line should reflect the actual content of the message so that recipients understand that the e-mail is an advertisement. The header information should be accurate.

A marketer should also provide specific contact information at which the individual can obtain service or information.

E-MAIL AUTHENTICATION

Article #41

Marketers that use e-mail for communication and transaction purposes should adopt and use identification and authentication protocols.

USE OF SOFTWARE OR OTHER SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY INSTALLED ON A COMPUTER OR SIMILAR DEVICE

Article #42

Marketers should not install, have installed, or use, software or other similar technology on a computer or similar device that initiates deceptive practices or interferes with a user's expectation of the functionality of the computer and its programs. Such practices include, but are not limited to, software or other similar technology that:

- Takes control of a computer (e.g., relaying spam and viruses, modem hijacking, denial of service attacks, or endless loop pop-up advertisements)
- Deceptively modifies or deceptively disables security or browser settings or
- Prevents the user's efforts to disable or uninstall the software or other similar technology

Anyone that offers software or other similar technology that is installed on a computer or similar device for marketing purposes should:

- Give the computer user clear and conspicuous notice and choice at the point of joining a service or before the software or other similar technology begins operating on the user's computer, including notice of significant effects* of having the software or other similar technology installed
- Give the user an easy means to uninstall the software or other similar technology and/or disable all functionality
- Give an easily accessible link to your privacy policy and
- Give clear identification of the software or other similar technology's name and company information, and the ability for the user to contact that company

* Determination of whether there are significant effects includes, for example:

- Whether pop-up advertisements appear that are unexpected by the consumer
- Whether there are changes to the computer's home page or tool bar
- Whether there are any changes to settings in security software, such as a firewall, to permit the software to communicate with the marketer or the company deploying the software, or
- Whether there are any other operational results that would inhibit the user's expected functionality

Cookies or other passive means of data collection, including Web beacons, are not governed by this Guideline. Article #38 provides guidance regarding cookies and other passive means of data collection.

SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE REFERRAL MARKETING

Article #43

1. DEFINITION

Social media marketing is the use of online communities and/or social networks (via services, websites or platforms – each a “channel”) to send a commercial marketing message to an individual and/or to that individual's own network. (Social media involves user interactions which the individual has agreed to display and to be shared.) Online referral marketing is a technique marketers use to generate new marketing leads.

Typically, the online marketer encourages an individual to do the following:

1. Forward a commercial solicitation to another individual, or
2. Provide the marketer with personally identifiable information, such as name and/or address/email address, about the referred individual so the marketer may contact that person directly, or
3. Share or display a social ad and/or otherwise engage with a social media network or channel by, for example, “friending” (an invitation to establish a social media relationship), posting or otherwise sharing or displaying the ad on or via a social media channel (e.g., an activity feed such as tweeting). This interaction may involve a request from the marketer that the individual provide profile or social data about himself/herself or others in his/her network. Profile data may include, but is not limited to: name, age, gender, location, expressed personal interests and preferences, and photos. Profile data also extends to what is known as the “social graph,” which are explicit online connections and interactions between individuals (“friends”).

2. USING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE INDIVIDUAL AND/OR ABOUT OTHERS

If personally identifiable information about an individual is given to a marketer through social media channels and/or online referral marketing rather than directly from an individual, then the following steps should be taken:

A marketer should not use personally identifiable information about a referred individual provided online by another individual unless:

- The marketer has previously disclosed, in a clear and conspicuous manner, to the referring individual the intended uses of the information (Note: All notices and disclosures referenced in this article should be made in clear and conspicuous manner and in keeping with DMA's Ethical Guidelines.);
- The marketer has disclosed to the referring individual that his or her own contact information will be provided to those individuals they have referred to the marketer;
- The marketer discloses to the referred person the fact that his or her contact information was obtained from another individual. The marketer should make the referring person's contact information available in the first communication to the prospect; and
- The marketer provides channel appropriate choices to the referred individual regarding receiving future communications. (Note: The frequency and type of choice provided (e.g., first communication vs. every communication) must be appropriate for the channel being used to contact the individual. For example, email communications must include an opt-out notice and choice in every communication.)

Since marketers have not had a direct contact with the referred individual, marketers should not contact referred individuals who are on their in-house suppression lists.

Marketers should not sell, rent, share, transfer, or exchange a referred e-mail address or referred personally identifiable information unless they receive prior permission from each referred person to do so.

Prior express consent must be obtained before initiating contact using a marketing channel or platform for which a referred individual will incur a fee for receipt of the marketing message, such as premium-rate text messaging via a mobile device. (Articles #54-#58.) In addition, online referral marketers offering an incentive should adhere to Article #39 (Mobile Service Commercial Messages).

4. SENDING COMMERCIAL SOLICITATIONS VIA INDIVIDUALS' SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS

If a marketer is contacting an individual to send marketing messages to that individual's network of contacts, each of the following steps should be taken:

- A marketer should obtain an individual's prior consent to participate in the social media marketing process whereby the marketer is added as a "friend" or a contact to be shared with the individual's other social media contacts;
- Profile data that contains personally identifiable information provided by an individual on a social networking site should not be shared with third parties without that individual's prior consent unless the user has agreed to post or populate such information in an unrestricted publicly accessible location;

- If tracking data is being collected as part of the social media marketing process for purposes of online behavioral advertising, please refer to Article #38;
- If a social or interactive advertising application (incorporating user-generated content or user interactions that the individual has consented to being shared) is being distributed to the individual's contacts, a preview should be provided to that individual for review and approval before it is distributed by the marketer to that individual's contacts. The recipient of the ad should be provided with an opportunity to opt out of receiving future communications from the marketer and having his/her information shared; and
- Marketers should not retain personally identifiable information used for social marketing purposes except for marketing purposes, and should not share such data with any third party without the individual's prior consent unless the user has agreed to post or populate such information in an unrestricted publicly accessible location.

Marketers using testimonials and endorsements in any media, including but not limited to social media channels (e.g., online message boards, blogging, etc.) and "word-of-mouth" marketing, should comply with Article #21 – Testimonials & Endorsements – of these Guidelines. Additionally, where marketing to children is permitted by law, marketers using social media channels should comply with Articles #13 - #16 of these Guidelines and ensure the marketing is suitable for the child, taking into account the age range, knowledge, sophistication, and maturity of their intended audience.

5. OPERATORS OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS & FORUMS

In addition to complying with the aforementioned items, operators of social media networks, platforms or other social media forums should:

- Post their privacy policy in a prominent location on their site so that it is clear and conspicuous;
- Advise individual users about their privacy policies, data deletion policy and the steps users should follow to change their privacy settings, to deactivate or to delete their accounts;
- Prevent games, quizzes and other applications developed by third parties from accessing personally identifiable information from an individual user until the marketer has provided clear and conspicuous notice to the individual before accessing their information (notice must include an opportunity to refuse marketing communications associated with the application), or obtains prior consent from that user for each category of personal information accessed.

E-MAIL APPENDING TO CONSUMER RECORDS

Article #44

Definition of e-mail address appending: E-mail address appending is the process of adding a consumer's e-mail address to that consumer's record. The e-mail address is obtained by matching those records from the marketer's database against a third-party database to produce a corresponding e-mail address.

A marketer should append a consumer's e-mail address to its database only when the consumer gives a marketer permission to add his or her e-mail address to the marketer's database; or

1. There is an established business relationship with that consumer either online or offline, and
2. The data used in the append process are from sources that provided notice and choice regarding the acceptance of receiving third-party e-mail offers and where the consumer did not opt out, and
3. Reasonable efforts are taken to ensure the appending of accurate e-mail addresses to the corresponding consumer records

Marketers should not send e-mails to appended e-mail addresses that are on their in-house e-mail suppression files. Marketers should not send Mobile Service Commercial Messages (MSCMs) to appended e-mail addresses that belong to wireless handsets or devices unless the recipient has provided prior express authorization to receive such messages from the sender. A marketer should not sell, rent, transfer, or exchange an appended e-mail address of a consumer unless it first offers notice and choice to the consumer. All messages to an e-mail appended address should include a notice and choice to continue to communicate via e-mail.

Marketers should have in place appropriate record-keeping systems to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

Telephone Marketing to Landline & Wireless Devices

REASONABLE HOURS

Article #45

Telephone contacts, whether to a landline or wireless handset or device, should be made during reasonable hours as specified by federal and state laws and regulations.

TAPING OF CONVERSATIONS

Article #46

Taping of telephone conversations by telephone marketers should only be conducted with notice to or consent of all parties, or the use of a beeping device, as required by applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

RESTRICTED CONTACTS

Article #47

A marketer should not knowingly call or send a voice solicitation message to a consumer who has an unlisted or unpublished telephone number except in instances where that specific number was provided by the consumer to that marketer for that purpose. A marketer should maintain an in-house Do-Not-Call list and refrain from calling numbers for solicitation purposes that are on the marketer's in-house Do-Not-Call list.

A marketer should not knowingly call a wireless device, except in instances where the recipient has provided prior express consent to receive such calls from that marketer.

Prior to contacting a landline or wireless device, marketers should use applicable federal and DMA Wireless Suppression Files or another comprehensive wireless suppression service. Such suppression files should assist marketers in determining whether or not they are contacting a wireless device, including landline numbers that have been ported to wireless handsets or devices.

A marketer should use DMA's Telephone Preference Service as required in Article #31 and must use the federal Do-Not-Call registry and state Do-Not-Call lists when applicable prior to using any outbound calling list. Telemarketing calls may be made to landline telephones, where the telemarketer has an established business relationship with the individuals even if the individual is on the national registry. An established business relationship is defined as those persons with whom the marketer has had a transaction/received a payment within the last 18 months or those persons who have inquired about the marketer's products/services within the last 3 months. (Note: State laws may vary. DMA's website at: www.the-dma.org/government/donotcalllists.shtml attempts to provide current information on state Do-Not-Call lists.) Consumers who have provided informed, written permission to the marketer do not need to be suppressed by any Do-Not-Call list. Individuals can add or remove themselves from company-specific Do-Not-Call lists either orally or in writing.

Marketers should not use randomly or sequentially generated numbers in sales or marketing solicitations.

CALLER-ID/AUTOMATIC NUMBER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Article #48

Marketers engaging in telemarketing to landline and wireless telephone numbers should generate caller identification information, including:

- A telephone number for the seller, service bureau, or customer service department that the consumer can call back during normal business hours to ask questions and/or to request not to receive future calls by making a do-not-call request, and
- Whenever the technology is available from the marketer's telecommunications carrier, the name of the seller on whose behalf the call is placed or service bureau making the call.

Marketers should not block transmission of caller identification or transmit a false name or telephone number.

Telephone marketers using automatic number identification (ANI) should not rent, sell, transfer, or exchange, without customer consent, landline telephone numbers gained from ANI, except where a prior business relationship exists for the sale of directly related goods or services. With regard to mobile telephone numbers, marketers should abide by Articles #31 and #35.

USE OF AUTOMATED DIALING EQUIPMENT

Article #49

Marketers using automated dialing equipment should allow 15 seconds or four rings before disconnecting an unanswered call.

Marketers should connect calls to live representatives within two seconds of the consumer's completed greeting (except in cases where a prerecorded marketing message is used, in accordance with Article #55). If the connection does not occur within the two-second period, then the call is considered abandoned whether or not the call is eventually connected. For any abandoned calls, the marketer should play a prerecorded identification message that includes the seller's name and telephone number, states the purpose of the call, and provides a telephone number at which the consumer can request not to receive future marketing calls.

Repeated abandoned or "hang up" calls to consumers' residential telephone numbers should be minimized. In no case should calls be abandoned more than:

- Three percent of answered calls, measured over the duration of a single calling campaign, if the campaign is less than 30 days, or separately over each successive 30-day period or portion of that period during which the campaign continues (unless a more restrictive state law applies), or
- Twice to the same telephone number within a 48-hour time period.

Marketers should only use automated dialing equipment that allows the telephone to immediately release the line when the called party terminates the connection.

When using any automated dialing equipment to reach a multi-line location, whether for business-to-consumer or business-to-business marketing, the equipment should release each line used before connecting to another.

Companies that manufacture and/or sell automated dialing equipment should design the software with the goal of minimizing abandoned calls to consumers. The software should be delivered to the user set as close to 0% as possible. Manufacturers should distribute these Guidelines for Automated Dialing Equipment to purchasers of dialing equipment and recommend that they be followed.

The dialers' software should be capable of generating a report that permits the user of the equipment to substantiate compliance with the guideline.

Glossary of Terms Used

Automated Dialing Equipment – any system or device that initiates outgoing call attempts from a predetermined list of phone numbers, based on a computerized pacing algorithm.

Abandoned Call – a call placed by automated dialing equipment to a consumer which when answered by the consumer, (1) breaks the connection because no live agent is available to speak to the consumer, or (2) no live agent is available to speak to the consumer within 2 seconds of the consumer's completed greeting.

Abandonment Rate – the number of abandoned calls over a 30-day period divided by the total number of calls that are answered by a live consumer. Calls that are not answered by a live consumer do not count in the calculation of the abandonment rate.

Campaign – refers to an offer of the same good or service for the same seller. As long as the same good or service is being offered by the same seller, the offer is part of a single campaign, regardless of whether there are changes in the terms of the offer or the wording of any marketing material, including any telemarketing script, used to convey the offer. This definition applies to Article 48 only and is based on the FTC's definition of a "campaign" for purposes of calculating the abandonment rate.

Report – reportable information that should be made available which contains key points, including the percentage of abandoned calls.

Telemarketing – a telephone call, prerecorded message or text message placed to a landline or wireless number for the purpose of promoting, advertising, marketing or offering goods or services.

USE OF PRERECORDED VOICE MESSAGING

Article #50

Marketers who use prerecorded voice messaging should not automatically terminate calls or provide misleading or inaccurate information when a live consumer answers the telephone.

Marketers should only use prerecorded voice messaging to sell good or services if they have first obtained the call recipient's prior express written agreement to receive prerecorded messages. In obtaining the consumer's written agreement, a marketer should observe the following:

- Before obtaining the consumer's informed consent, the marketer should clearly and conspicuously disclose that the purpose of the agreement is to allow the marketer to make prerecorded message calls to the consumer.
- The written agreement should evidence the consumer's informed consent to receive prerecorded calls by or on behalf of the specific marketer
- The marketer should not require that the consumer agree to receive prerecorded calls as a condition of purchasing any good or service.
- The agreement should include the consumer's telephone number and signature.
- Marketers may obtain the written agreement electronically in accordance with applicable laws such as the E-Sign Act.

Marketers should begin making the initial disclosures as specified under Article #52 within two seconds of the call recipient's completed greeting.

Immediately following the initial disclosures, marketers should provide an opt-out mechanism that the call recipient can use to be placed on the company's do-not-call list. The type of mechanism that the marketer should provide depends on whether the call can be answered by a live person or by an automated device. If the marketer is able to determine whether a prerecorded call has been answered by a live person or an automated device, the marketer should tailor the prerecorded message to include the appropriate opt-out mechanism (either option 1 or 2 below):

1. If the call is answered by a live person, then the marketer should provide an automated interactive voice and/or keypress-activated opt-out mechanism that the recipient can use to make an opt-out request. The mechanism should be available for use at any time during the message.
2. If the call is answered by an answering machine or voicemail system, then the prerecorded message should provide a toll-free telephone number that the recipient can call to make an opt-out request at any time during the telemarketing campaign. The telephone number provided should connect directly to an automated interactive voice and/or keypress-activated opt-out mechanism. Consumers should be able to call at any time of the day, and on any day, during the duration of the campaign.

If the marketer is not able to determine whether a prerecorded call has been answered by a live person or an automated device, the prerecorded message should include both options 1 and 2.

The interactive voice and/or keypress-activated opt-out mechanism – regardless of whether the prerecorded call can be answered by a live person or automated answering device – should have the following features:

- The opt-out mechanism should automatically add the number called to the entity's company-specific do-not-call list; and
- The opt-out mechanism should immediately disconnect the call once the opt-out request is made.

Marketers may use prerecorded messages that provide information, but do not induce the purchase of goods or services, without first obtaining written consent and without providing an opt-out mechanism. Such calls should promptly disclose the identity of the caller at the outset of the call and provide a telephone number sometime during the call.

USE OF TELEPHONE FACSIMILE MACHINES

Article #51

Unless there is an established business relationship, or unless prior permission has been granted, advertisements, offers and solicitations, whether sent to a consumer or a business, should not be transmitted to a facsimile machine, including computer fax machines. An established business relationship in the fax context is defined as a prior or existing relationship based on a voluntary, two-way communication between the sender and recipient of the fax. Such communication includes a purchase, transaction, inquiry, or application for or about goods or services offered by the sender. For business relationships formed after July 9, 2005, the fax number must be provided voluntarily by the recipient to the sender, or be made available voluntarily by the recipient in a directory, advertisement, or Internet site.

Each permitted transmission to a fax machine must clearly contain on the first page:

- the date and time the transmission is sent;
- the identity of the sender which is registered as a business with a state;
- the telephone number of the sender or the sending machine; and
- a clear and conspicuous opt-out notice.

The opt-out notice should:

- clearly state that the recipient may opt out of any future faxes and provide clear instructions for doing so;
- provide a domestic telephone number and fax number for recipients to transmit an opt-out request; and
- unless the telephone or fax number is toll-free, a cost-free mechanism to submit an opt-out request.

Senders must accept opt-out requests at any time.

Opt-out requests must be honored in 30 days, or sooner if feasible. An opt-out request terminates permission to send future faxes based only on an established business relationship.

PROMOTIONS FOR RESPONSE BY TOLL-FREE AND PAY-PER-CALL NUMBERS

Article #52

Promotions for response by 800 or other toll-free numbers should be used only when there is no charge to the consumer for the call itself and when there is no transfer from a toll-free number to a pay call.

Promotions for response by using 900 numbers or any other type of pay-per-call programs should clearly and conspicuously disclose all charges for the call. A preamble at the beginning of the 900 or other pay-per-call should include the nature of the service or program, charge per minute, and the total estimated charge for the call, as well as the name, address, and telephone number of the sponsor. The caller should be given the option to disconnect the call at any time during the preamble without incurring any charge. The 900 number or other pay-per-call should only use equipment that ceases accumulating time and charges immediately upon disconnection by the caller.

DISCLOSURE AND TACTICS

Article #53

Marketers should make the following initial disclosures promptly:

- The identity of the seller or charitable organization on behalf of which the call is made;
- That the purpose of the call is to sell goods or services or to solicit a charitable contribution;
- The nature of the goods or services offered during the call (if applicable); and
- If a prize promotion is offered, that no purchase or payment is necessary to be able to win a prize or participate in a prize promotion and that any purchase or payment will not increase the person's chances of winning.

Prior to asking consumers for payment authorization, telephone marketers should disclose the cost of the merchandise or service and all terms and conditions, including payment plans, whether or not there is a no refund or a no cancellation policy in place, limitations, and the amount or existence of any extra charges such as shipping and handling and insurance. At no time should high pressure tactics be utilized.

Mobile Marketing

Please refer to the Glossary of Terms at the end of this section for the complete definitions of key concepts and terms used within this section.

OBTAINING CONSENT TO CONTACT MOBILE DEVICES

Article #54

Marketers should obtain prior express consent from existing and prospective customers before sending mobile marketing to a wireless device. A marketer should be able to demonstrate that the recipients knowingly and affirmatively consented. Consent may be obtained orally, in writing or electronically.

PROVIDING NOTICE ABOUT MOBILE MARKETING PRACTICES

Article #55

Marketers that send or intend to send mobile messages should publish an easily accessible notice of their practices (which includes but is not limited to a notice in their respective privacy policies) with regard to mobile marketing. The notice must include sufficient information to allow individuals to make an informed choice about their interaction with the marketer. This should include, at minimum, any applicable terms and conditions, details of the marketer's information handling practices and clear directions about how to unsubscribe.

The notice should be easy to find, read and understand, and should comply with existing DMA Guidelines. Of particular note, mobile marketers should review and comply with the Terms of the Offer (Articles #1-6, #8, #9), Advance Consent Marketing (Article #12), Special Offers & Claims (Articles #17-#21), and Sweepstakes (Articles #22-#27).

MOBILE OPT-OUT REQUESTS

Article #56

Every mobile marketing message sent must include a simple and easy-to-use mechanism through which the individual can opt out of receiving future mobile marketing messages. Where possible, the opt-out mechanism provided should allow the recipient to opt out via reply text message.

Where individuals respond to a marketer indicating that they do not wish to receive future mobile marketing messages (e.g. an individual replies "STOP"), the marketer should honor the request. Mobile opt-out requests should be honored within 10 days of being received and in accordance with Article #31.

SPONSORSHIP OR AFFILIATE MOBILE MARKETING

Article #57

A marketer may include an affiliate or sponsorship message within a mobile marketing communication, providing that the recipient has provided prior express consent to receive mobile marketing communications from that marketer and that it is clear from the mobile marketing communication that the message has been sent by that marketer and not by the sponsor. A marketer should also comply with Article #8 - Disclosure of Sponsor and Intent.

LOCATION-BASED MOBILE MARKETING

Article #58

Marketers sending location-based mobile marketing messages to recipients should adhere to Articles #54-56. In addition, marketers should inform individuals how location information will be used, disclosed and protected so that the individual

may make an informed decision about whether or not to use the service or consent to the receipt of such communications. Location-based information must not be shared with third-party marketers unless the individual has given prior express consent for the disclosure.

MOBILE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES AND PREMIUM-RATE MOBILE SERVICES

Article #59

Mobile subscription services and mobile premium-rate products and/or services should be offered and delivered in accordance with DMA Guidelines, in particular the Terms of the Offer (Articles #1-6, #8, #9), Advance Consent Marketing (Article #12), Marketing to Children (Article #13-#16), Special Offers & Claims (Articles #17-#21) and Sweepstakes (Articles #22-#27). All advertising and marketing for mobile subscription services or premium-rate mobile products/services should clearly define the service offered and outline the terms and conditions of the offer in accordance with these articles. Mobile subscription services or premium-rate mobile services should not be supplied unless the recipient has actively requested to receive the specific service to be supplied. Further, prior express consent should be obtained from a recipient prior to supplying additional or separate mobile subscription services and premium-rate mobile services at a subsequent date.

In accordance with Articles #12 and #48, and prior to sending or charging recipients for mobile subscription services and/or premium-rate mobile products/services, marketers should:

- provide the individual with an opportunity to see or hear the terms and conditions relating to the subscription service, including:
 - the cost per unit or the total cost of the subscription or premium-rate service;
 - the term of the subscription or premium-rate service;
 - the frequency of the subscription or premium-rate service;
 - payment intervals;
 - how to terminate the subscription or premium-rate service including any terms and conditions that apply to such termination.
- obtain prior express consent from recipients to receive and be charged for said subscriptions, products and/or services;
- inform recipients in the initial offer and in renewal reminders of their right to cancel their participation in the plan, and include contact information within the initial and renewal messages that allows the recipient to directly contact them;
- provide renewal reminders at the frequency specified in the initial offer;
- promptly honor requests for refunds due upon a consumer's cancellation of the plan;
- abide by Articles #13-#16 and #48, and take reasonable precautions and implement adequate technical accountability and authentication measures to ascertain that
 - (a) the mobile phone number or email address provided indeed belongs to the intended recipient of the subscriptions, products or services, and
 - (b) periodically, and not less than once a month, include contact information within the mobile subscription service message or premium-rate mobile service message that allows the individual to directly contact the marketer.

Glossary of Terms Used

Individuals – refers to the recipients or potential recipients of mobile marketing communications. For purposes of opting out (refer to Article #56), individuals refers to the number(s) and/or electronic address(es) of the wireless device(s) used by the recipients.

Location-Based Services – marketing text message targeted to a recipient dependent on their location, by a handset or user's physical location.

Mobile Marketing – refers to a sales and promotion technique in which promotional materials are delivered to a wireless phone or device. It can include both 'direct mobile marketing' (i.e. marketing communications targeted, sent or "pushed" to a wireless handset or device, such as marketing text messages) and 'indirect mobile marketing' (i.e. marketing that can be accessed or "pulled" by an individual via a wireless handset or device such as a mobile enabled website). Examples include the sending of SMS, MMS or WAP push messages, Bluetooth messaging and other interrupt based marketing to wireless devices.

Mobile Service Commercial Message (MSCM) – a commercial electronic message that is transmitted directly to a wireless device that is utilized by a subscriber of commercial mobile service.

Multi-Media Messaging Services (MMS) – an extension of a the Short Message Service Technology that permits the marketer to send marketing messages to a wireless handset that include multimedia objects such as images, audio and video.

Mobile Subscription Service – a service that is provided periodically or on an ongoing basis that is delivered to an individual via a wireless handset or device. This includes free services and paid subscription services.

Premium Rate Mobile Services – a service that is provided in a single instance, periodically or on an ongoing basis that is delivered to an individual via a wireless handset or device whereby the recipient pays a rate that exceeds the standard tariff to either receive or send a mobile message.

Prior Express Consent – refers to affirmative, express and informed consent. A marketer should be able to demonstrate that recipients knowingly and affirmatively consented to be contacted on their wireless devices by that marketer for any purposes. Consent may be obtained orally, in writing or electronically. The notice to obtain consent should include a clear and conspicuous disclosure and require an active step on the part of the recipient to demonstrate that he/she agrees to receive the communication and/or product or service. This consent may be obtained via any channel. A pre-checked box, for example, would not suffice as an adequate means for obtaining consent.

Recipient – any natural or legal person or business that receives a mobile marketing communication.

Short Message Service (SMS) – a marketing message sent as a text message.

Text message – a brief electronic message sent between mobile phones, containing text composed by the sender, usually input via a lettering system on a cell phone's numeric keypad.

Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) – Refers to a secure specification that allows users to access information instantly via handheld wireless devices such as mobile phones, pagers, two-way radios, smartphones and communicators.

Wireless – Refers to telecommunications in which electromagnetic waves (rather than some form of wire) carry the signal over part or all of the communication path.

Wireless Handset – Umbrella term for devices, typically with keys to input data, that are mobile and can be operated by hand. Examples are mobile phones, pagers, two-way radios, smartphones and communicators.

FUNDRAISING

Article #60

In addition to compliance with these guidelines, fundraisers and other charitable solicitors should, whenever requested by donors or potential donors, provide financial information regarding use of funds.

LAWS, CODES, AND REGULATIONS

Article #61

Direct marketers should operate in accordance with laws and regulations of the United States Postal Service, the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Reserve Board, and other applicable federal, state, and local laws governing advertising, marketing practices, and the transaction of business.

Other DMA Resources

- “Do the Right Thing” Compliance Guide
- Commitment to Consumer Choice Member Compliance Guide
- Preference Services Subscriber Information
- DMA’s consumer website: **www.DMAchoice.org**
- Privacy Policy Generators
- Environmental Resources and Generator (The “Green 15”)
- E-Commerce Integrity Resource Center
- Information Security: Safeguarding Personal Data in Your Care

See DMA’s Resources for Businesses Guide for numerous other resources developed by the Department of Corporate & Social Responsibility:
www.dmaresponsibility.org

DMA can also provide your company with information on the following Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations and rules affecting direct marketers:

FTC:

- Mail or Telephone Order Merchandise Rule
- Telemarketing Sales Rule
- Children’s Online Privacy Protection Rule
- Negative Option Rule
- Guides against Deceptive Pricing

FCC:

- Telephone Consumer Protection Act

The US Postal Service’s *Fighting Mail Order Fraud and Theft: Best Practices for the Mail Order Industry Reference Guide* is available, as well as other DMA and government titles, and a variety of consumer education brochures.

DMA's Department of Corporate & Social Responsibility

In its continuing efforts to improve and advance the practices of direct marketing and the marketer's relationship with customers, the DMA sponsors several activities through its Department of Corporate & Social Responsibility:

- Ethical Guidelines are maintained, updated periodically, and distributed to the direct marketing community.
- The Committee on Ethical Business Practice investigates and examines promotions and practices throughout the direct marketing community that are brought to its attention.
- The Ethics Policy Committee revises the Guidelines as needed, and initiates programs and projects directed toward improved ethical awareness in the direct marketing arena.
- The Committee on the Environment and Social Responsibility identifies ways for members to be good corporate citizens and recommends relevant best practices.
- "Dialogue" meetings between direct marketing professionals and consumer affairs and regulatory representatives facilitate increased communication between direct marketers and their customers.
- DMA's Commitment to Consumer Choice builds consumer trust in the marketing process by offering individual choices online and offline.

www.DMAchoice.org offers consumers assistance in managing their mail and email marketing preferences, and provides consumer education. www.Aboutads.info provides consumers choices for online behavioral advertising. The DMA CSR department oversees compliance by marketers to ensure consumer choices are being honored.

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