



PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Files Suit Against Access Funding for Exploiting Lead Paint and Other Injured Marylanders ***AG Frosh Seeking Restitution for Marylanders Harmed by These Unfair and Deceptive Practices***

Baltimore, MD (May 12, 2016) -- Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that his office has filed suit against Access Funding, LLC and other affiliated companies, for allegedly misleading victims of lead paint poisoning and other injured Marylanders to convert future structured settlement payments into immediate cash.

The complaint alleges that, in violation of the Maryland Consumer Protection Act, Access Funding aggressively targeted young, intellectually-impaired Marylanders, including numerous groups of Baltimore City siblings who were exposed to lead paint as children in their family home; that Access Funding arranged for its customers to get sham "independent professional advice" about these transactions from a Maryland lawyer who secretly functioned as a member of Access Funding's own team; that injured Marylanders who did business with Access Funding, after relinquishing future settlement payments intended to support them for years or decades into the future, received a cash equivalent only to a fraction of the value of those future payments; and that Access Funding committed fraud on the Maryland courts that approved these transactions, including by falsely asserting that its injured and cognitively-impaired customers received the independent professional advice that Maryland law requires as a prerequisite to the transactions.

According to the complaint, the majority of Access Funding's customers are young people between the ages of 18 and 26 who reside in Baltimore City, and more than 70 percent of Access Funding's customers were victims of childhood lead paint poisoning.

"Victims of lead paint poisoning suffer permanent cognitive injuries. Structured settlements are a lifeline that provides long term care and support," said Attorney General Brian Frosh. "My office will fight to prevent vulnerable Marylanders from having their money taken from them through illegal practices."

In the complaint, the Attorney General requests that the court award restitution to injured and cognitively-impaired Marylanders who were harmed by Access Funding's practices, impose civil penalties on Access Funding and its principals under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act, and declare void prior transfers of structured settlement payment rights.

The full complaint is available [here](#).