



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Re: Tate Publishing & Enterprises, LLC and Tate Music Group, LLC

Dear author and/or artist,

The Consumer Protection Unit of the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office (hereafter referred to as "CPU") has successfully completed the prosecution of the multi-count criminal cases previously filed against Richard and Ryan Tate, the principals of Tate Publishing & Enterprises, LLC ("Tate Publishing") and Tate Music Group, LLC ("TMG").

Richard R. Tate, Jr., and Ryan T. Tate have each been convicted in the District Court of Canadian County, Oklahoma, of 44 various counts of Embezzlement, Extortion, Attempted Extortion, Conspiracy and Engaging in a Pattern of Criminal Activity.

Pursuant to a plea agreement with the Oklahoma Attorney General, Richard R. Tate, Jr., and Ryan T. Tate were each sentenced to 20 years in the custody of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. The defendants' 20 year prison sentences were suspended pursuant to a 20 year probation order which requires the defendants to pay more than \$825,000.00 in restitution to their victims. The Court's Order also allows the total restitution amount to be increased as additional victim claims are received by the CPU prior to July 1, 2019. The Court's Journal Entries of Sentencing may be reviewed at the following links:

Ryan T. Tate, CF-2017-387: <http://www.oag.ok.gov/Websites/oag/images/RT.pdf>;

Richard R. Tate, Jr. CF-2017-388: <http://www.oag.ok.gov/Websites/oag/images/R.pdf>

An additional condition of the plea agreement required the defendants to release any and all contractual agreements between Richard and Ryan Tate, the principals of Tate Publishing & Enterprises, LLC ("Tate Publishing") and Tate Music Group, LLC ("TMG") and all Tate Publishing authors and TMG artists. As a result, all contractual publishing agreements held by the defendants and/or any of their businesses have been terminated. Therefore, the defendants no longer claim any interest in, or rights to, any respective authors' and/or artists' projects, including, but not limited to, books, audiobooks, artworks, music, and videos.

Each author or artist who has been victimized by the Tates may be eligible to recover their monetary losses during the defendant's probationary term. To be eligible for restitution payments, a victim must provide to the CPU, sufficient documentation of the amounts paid to the defendants' businesses, including copies of signed contracts and other documents that establish the victim's relationship with the defendants' businesses. Many victims of the Tates have already provided such documentation which

was the basis for the current restitution amount as set out in the Court's sentencing order of December 19, 2019.

Any Tate victims who have not yet provided the necessary documentation to the CPU should provide detailed statements of loss, copies of signed contracts, and financial documents, such as credit card/bank statements, checks, order receipts, etc., supporting their statement of loss, prior to June 15, 2019, to allow the CPU sufficient time to verify their claims. After July 1, 2019, the total restitution owed by the defendants cannot be increased.

The CPU has also collected more than one thousand authors' and artists' files from the defendants during the prosecution of these cases. The defendants claim they are incapable of returning all authors' and artists' files. The CPU has recovered a total of 1,560 files belonging to 1,100 authors/artists who had previously filed complaints. Those files have been reviewed and were placed into an Owncloud database to be used as a file retrieval process for the 1,100 identified authors/artists.

As part of the plea agreement, the defendants turned over a server which may contain additional victim files. The server's hard drive is in the process of being examined. Any files located that correspond with a CPU complaint, will be added to the Owncloud database so that identified victims can use the file retrieval process to recover their property. A victim must file a complaint with CPU in order for us to have the necessary information to be matched with any files that may be found. Unfortunately, some of the files recovered have been incorrect, incomplete, corrupted, or otherwise defective. The Oklahoma Attorney General's Office can provide no assurances as to the quality of the files returned by the defendants, nor may any statement herein be construed as legal advice to any party regarding those files.

Oklahoma Attorney General's Office
Attn: Consumer Protection Unit
313 NE 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Consumerprotection@oag.ok.gov
CPU contact #: (405) 522-1012