

537.6113 Civil actions by administrator.

1. After demand, the administrator may bring a civil action against a person for all amounts of money, other than penalties, which a consumer or class of consumers has a right to recover explicitly granted by this chapter. The court shall order amounts recovered or recoverable under this subsection to be paid to each consumer or set off against the consumer's obligation. A consumer's action, other than a class action, takes precedence over a prior or subsequent action by the administrator with respect to the claim of that consumer. A consumer's class action takes precedence over a subsequent action by the administrator with respect to claims common to both actions but intervention by the administrator is authorized. An administrator's action on behalf of a class of consumers takes precedence over a consumer's subsequent class action with respect to claims common to both actions. Whenever an action takes precedence over another action under this subsection, the latter action may be stayed to the extent appropriate while the precedent action is pending and dismissed if the precedent action is dismissed with prejudice or results in a final judgment granting or denying the claim asserted in the precedent action. A defense available to a person in a civil action brought by a consumer is available to the person in a civil action brought under this subsection.

2. The administrator may bring a civil action against a person to recover a civil penalty of no more than five thousand dollars for repeatedly and intentionally violating this chapter. No civil penalty pursuant to this subsection may be imposed for violations of this chapter occurring more than two years before the action is brought or for making unconscionable agreements or engaging in a course of fraudulent or unconscionable conduct.

3. The administrator may bring a civil action against a person for failure to file notification in accordance with the provisions on notification in section 537.6202, or to pay fees in accordance with the provisions on fees in section 537.6203, to recover the fees the defendant has failed to pay plus interest at the rate of seven percent per annum and the administrator's reasonable costs in bringing the action, and a civil penalty in an amount determined by the court not exceeding the greater of three times the amount of fees the person has failed to pay or one thousand dollars.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §537.6113]