



Jonathan Mintz  
Commissioner

42 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

Dial 311 or  
212-NEW-YORK  
(outside NYC)

[nyc.gov/consumers](http://nyc.gov/consumers)

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BY REGULAR MAIL



**Re: Debt collection agency question**

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs ("Department") issues this letter in response to your recent inquiry. You asked for the definition of the term "originating creditor" as used in Section 20-493.1(a)(3) of the Administrative Code of the City of New York. You also requested an example of an "originating creditor."

Read in context, the term "originating creditor" refers to a person who offers or extends credit creating a debt. For example, if a consumer receives cellular telephone service from Phone Company A, and accrues debt to Phone Company A, then Phone Company A is the "originating creditor" with regard to the consumer's debt. Note that Phone Company A remains the originating creditor even if Phone Company A eventually sells the consumer's debt to another entity.

For more information about New York City's laws and rules regulating debt collection agencies, please visit the Department's web site at [www.nyc.gov/consumers](http://www.nyc.gov/consumers). Note that there may be other laws enforced by Federal, State, and/or other City agencies that apply to your business.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Department of Consumer Affairs