In the Matter of:

PLUTUS FINANCIAL, INC., ABRA TRADING, LLC, PLUTUS FINANCIAL HOLDINGS, INC., PLUTUS LENDING, LLC, and WILLIAM JOHN BARHYDT.

# MULTISTATE SETTLEMENT CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS state money transmitter regulators, as part of a multistate Money Transmitter
 Regulators Association Working Group, including regulators from the states of Arkansas,
 Connecticut, Georgia, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Washington, and Vermont (the MTRA Working Group)
 conducted a multistate investigation into whether Plutus Financial, Inc., Abra Trading, LLC, Plutus
 Financial Holdings, Inc., Plutus Lending, LLC (collectively Plutus), and William John Barhydt
 (Mr. Barhydt) engaged in unlicensed money transmission as set forth herein to customers residing in
 the United States.

Respondents.

WHEREAS on July 18, 2023, the Banking Commissioner (Commissioner) of the Connecticut
Department of Banking (Department) issued a Temporary Order to Cease and Desist, Order to
Provide Disgorgement, Notice of Intent to Issue Order to Cease and Desist, Notice of Intent to
Impose Civil Penalty and Notice of Right to Hearing (Order and Notice) against Plutus Financial, Inc.
d/b/a Abra Trade d/b/a/ Abra alleging that Plutus Financial, Inc. engaged in unlicensed money
transmission activity in violation of Section 36a-597(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

WHEREAS on or about June 25, 2024, Plutus and Mr. Barhydt executed a Term Sheet with the MTRA Working Group agreeing to enter into consent orders to resolve the multistate investigation.

NOW THEREFORE, the Commissioner and Plutus and Mr. Barhydt, finding that the issues
raised in the multistate investigation and the Order and Notice, may be economically and efficiently
settled, agree to the entry of this Consent Order. This Consent Order is entered pursuant to Part V of
Chapter 668, Sections 36a-595 to 36a-612, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, and
Sections 36a-613 and 36a-614 of the 2024 Supplement to General Statutes known as the "Money
Transmission Act", based upon the following:

# **FINDINGS OF FACT**

**1.1 Plutus Financial, Inc.** is a Delaware corporation formed in 2014. Plutus Financial, Inc. has never been licensed to engage in the business of money transmission with the Commissioner.

**1.2** Abra Trading, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company formed in 2022. On
 August 21, 2023, Abra Trading, LLC's application for an initial money transmission license was
 denied by the Commissioner.

**1.3 Plutus Financial Holdings, Inc.** is a Delaware corporation formed in 2022. Plutus Financial Holdings, Inc. has never been licensed to engage in the business of money transmission with the Commissioner.

19 1.4 Plutus Lending, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company formed in 2020. Plutus
20 Lending, LLC has never been licensed to engage in the business of money transmission with the
21 Commissioner.

Plutus was in the business of providing customers with a digital platform that enabled their
customers to buy, sell, borrow, trade, and hold virtual assets. Plutus operated a mobile phone

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application that enabled U.S. customers to create an Abra Trade Account (U.S. Trade Customers) in
 order to conduct these financial transactions.

1.6 Mr. Barhydt is the largest owner of the equity ownership interests of Plutus Financial
 Holdings, Inc., its direct subsidiaries Plutus Financial, Inc., Abra Trading, LLC, Abra Boost, LLC,
 and its indirect subsidiary Plutus Lending, LLC. Further, Mr. Barhydt is the Chief Executive Officer
 of Plutus Financial, Inc., and directly or indirectly controls Plutus.

Mr. Barhydt is responsible for defining the strategy and the day-to-day operations of Plutus to include (i) the decision to utilize Digital Capital Solutions Limited and Plutus Technologies Philippines Corporation in connection with the money transmission products and services of Plutus Financial, Inc., Plutus Financial Holdings, Inc., and Plutus Lending, LLC, and (ii) the decision to allow Abra Trading, LLC to hold itself out as providing money transmission services.

**1.7 Digital Capital Solutions Limited** is a British Virgin Islands entity that assisted Plutus in their provision of money transmission products and services to U.S. Trade Customers from at least January 2023 to June 2023. Digital Capital Solutions Limited has never been licensed to engage in the business of money transmission with the Commissioner.

Plutus and Mr. Barhydt represented to the MTRA Working Group that Plutus and Mr. Barhydt exercise no control over Digital Capital Solutions Limited and are unable to waive service on behalf of Digital Capital Solutions Limited. Thus, Digital Capital Solutions Limited is not named as a Respondent in this matter.

**1.8** Plutus Technologies Philippines Corporation is a Philippines Corporation, and partially owned subsidiary of Plutus Financial, Inc., that assisted Plutus Financial, Inc., Plutus Financial Holdings, Inc., and Plutus Lending, LLC in its provision of money transmission products and services to U.S. Trade Customers. Plutus Technologies Philippines Corporation has never been licensed to engage in the business of money transmission with the Commissioner.

Plutus and Mr. Barhydt represented to the MTRA Working Group that because Plutus Technologies Philippines Corporation is a partially-owned subsidiary, they are unable to waive service on behalf of Plutus Technologies Philippines Corporation. Thus, Plutus Technologies Philippines Corporation is not a named Respondent in this matter.

5 1.9 Abra Boost, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company formed in 2022. Abra 6 Boost, LLC has never been licensed to engage in the business of money transmission with the Commissioner. Abra Boost, LLC offered a securities product in reliance on an exemption from registration under the Securities Act of 1933 (Boost Securities), which Abra Boost, LLC represented 8 9 made the product exempt from state securities registration requirements. Boost Securities launched 10 in November 2022 and wound down in June 2023. With respect to Boost Securities, all purchase funds and accrued interest, which were denominated in virtual assets, were redeemed. The 12 redeemed virtual assets were credited to Abra Trade Accounts and made available for withdrawal by U.S. Trade Customers as of August 1, 2023. 13

Plutus and Mr. Barhydt objected to the inclusion of Abra Boost in this matter based upon their representation that Boost Securities are securities products that do not involve money transmission. Thus, in order to resolve the multistate investigation, Abra Boost is not a named Respondent in this matter.

From at least March 2021 until June 2023, Plutus Financial, Inc., and Plutus Lending, LLC 1.10 engaged in the business of receiving money or its equivalent value to transmit, deliver, or instruct to be delivered money or its equivalent value to another location, or at least advertised, solicited, or held themselves out as providing those services via their products Abra Trade, Abra Earn, and Abra Wallets.

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1 **1.11** From at least June 2022 to June 2023, Abra Trading, LLC held itself out as providing money
 2 transmission services.

In approximately July 2021, Plutus Technologies Philippines Corporation signed an
agreement with Fireblocks. Pursuant to this agreement, beginning in January 2023, some U.S. Trade
Customer virtual assets in Abra Trade Accounts were held in Fireblocks Vaults, where they remain
available for withdrawal as of the date of this Consent Order.

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1.13 From at least January 2023 to June 2023, Plutus also held U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets
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1.13 From at least January 2023 to June 2023, Plutus also held U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets in Abra
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1.13 Trade Accounts actually being held on Binance.com, an unlicensed foreign exchange.

10 1.14 On or about May 24, 2023, Plutus Financial, Inc. and Abra Trading, LLC provided a
11 breakdown of U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets held by Plutus including customer level data, for
12 Connecticut customers.

13 1.15 On or about June 7, 2023, Plutus identified for the MTRA Working Group all entities
14 involved in their money transmission flow of funds, including all entities necessary for processing
15 withdrawals or executing other transactions or transfers in order to facilitate the return of virtual
16 assets to U.S. Trade Customers of Connecticut.

**1.16** On or about June 14, 2023, Plutus issued an announcement that Plutus would phase out any products and services offered to U.S. Trade Customers in a gradual and orderly fashion.

**1.17** On or about June 15, 2023, Plutus ceased accepting U.S. Trade Customer virtual asset

20 allocations into their money transmission products and services, and ceased making the buying,

l || selling, or trading of cryptocurrencies available to U.S. Trade Customers in Connecticut.

1.18 On or about July 8, 2024, Plutus sent a written communication to all U.S. Trade Customers
stating that they should withdraw all virtual assets held by Plutus prior to July 31, 2024.

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1.19 On or about June 26, 2024, Plutus posted separate clear and conspicuous notifications that 2 U.S. Trade Customers should withdraw all virtual assets held by Plutus prior to July 31, 2024, on their mobile application, website, and all social media platforms on which they are active. 3

1.20 On or about June 26, 2024, Plutus confirmed and ratified the announcement of June 14, 2023, 4 5 to phase out any money transmission products and services offered to U.S. Trade Customers in a 6 gradual and orderly fashion, with all necessary amendments for consistency with the executed Term Sheet.

On or about June 25, 2024, Plutus attested, under penalty of perjury, that as of June 25, 2024 8 1.21 9 they held virtual assets on behalf of U.S. Trade Customers sufficient to facilitate and fulfill 10 withdrawals of all such virtual assets belonging to all such U.S. Trade Customers residing in 11 Connecticut.

12 1.22 On or about June 25, 2024, Mr. Barhydt attested, under penalty of perjury, that as of June 25, 2024, Plutus held virtual assets on behalf of Abra Trade's U.S. Trade Customers sufficient to 13 facilitate and fulfill withdrawals of all such virtual assets belonging to such U.S. Trade Customers 14 15 who are residents of Connecticut. Mr. Barhydt further attested that he will assume personal liability for the return of all such Abra Trade U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets if Plutus do not process and 16 17 fulfill withdrawals of all such virtual assets belonging to all such U.S. Trade Customers residing in Connecticut. 18

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### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

20 Based upon the above Findings of Fact, Plutus Financial, Inc. engaged in the business of money transmission, and advertised or solicited such services in Connecticut without a license, in violation of Section 36a-597(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes; 22

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Mr. Barhydt aided or otherwise facilitated Plutus Financial, Inc.'s engagement in the business of money transmission without a license by failing to establish, enforce and maintain policies and procedures reasonably designed to achieve compliance with applicable money transmission laws and regulations, in violation of Section 36a-607(c)(10) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

By offering and providing Abra Trade Accounts, and related products and services to residents of Connecticut, Plutus Financial, Inc. engaged in the business of money transmission in Connecticut without a license issued by Commissioner, in violation of Section 36a-597(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

# AGREEMENT AND ORDER

The Commissioner, Plutus and Mr. Barhydt have agreed upon a basis for resolution of the Finding of Facts and Conclusions of Law in this Consent Order. Section 4-177(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 36a-1-55(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies provide that a contested case may be resolved by consent order, unless precluded by law. Plutus and Mr. Barhydt hereby agree to the Commissioner's entry of this Consent Order and further agree this Consent Order constitutes a full and final resolution of the MTRA Working Group investigation as it relates to unlicensed money transmission by Plutus and Mr. Barhydt. Plutus and Mr. Barhydt neither admit nor deny the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law identified in this Consent Order. Based upon the foregoing:

**A. Jurisdiction.** It is AGREED that the Commissioner has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the activities discussed herein.

**B.** Waiver of Hearing. It is AGREED that Plutus and Mr. Barhydt hereby waive any right they may have to a hearing and any and all administrative and judicial review of the issues raised in

the MTRA Working Group investigation, and voluntarily waives their right to seek judicial review or otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this Consent Order and the resolutions reached herein.

C. Ceasing Operations. It is AGREED and ORDERED that Plutus shall not accept new
U.S. Trade Customer virtual asset allocations. This does not prevent Plutus from allowing U.S.
Trade Customers to withdraw their virtual assets from Abra Trade Accounts maintained by Plutus,
Plutus Technologies Philippines Corporation, or Digital Capital Solutions Limited.

D. No Future Activity with Unlicensed Entities. It is AGREED and ORDERED that
 Plutus and Mr. Barhydt shall not engage directly or indirectly with Plutus Technologies Philippines
 Corporation or Digital Capital Solutions Limited in order to facilitate or provide money transmission
 products or services to customers in Connecticut or with respect to U.S. Trade Customer virtual
 assets, except to the limited extent necessary to complete processing withdrawal requests from U.S.
 Trade Customers.

It is FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that Plutus and Mr. Barhydt shall not engage directly or indirectly with any entity that is unlicensed or not properly licensed in order to facilitate or provide money transmission products or services to customers of Connecticut or with respect to U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets.

E. Money Transmission License Required. It is AGREED and ORDERED that Plutus shall not perform money transmission or hold themselves out as a money transmitter in Connecticut, without first obtaining a license to engage in the business of money transmission license in accordance with Section 36a-597(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes. It is FURTHER AGREED this provision does not prohibit Plutus and Mr. Barhydt from returning U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets consistent with Paragraphs K and L of this Consent Order.

**F.** No Control - Passive Investor Only. It is AGREED, that Mr. Barhydt will not participate in any capacity in the conduct of the affairs of any entity licensed to engage in the business of money transmission by Connecticut or subject to licensure or regulation by Connecticut for a period of five years from June 25, 2024. This includes acting as a director, manager, owner, supervisor, control person, or qualified individual of any entity acting directly as a money transmitter in Connecticut or acting indirectly in such capacity through a third-party entity. Mr. Barhydt may participate as a "passive investor," who does not otherwise exercise control of an entity duly licensed to engage in the business of money transmission in Connecticut.

It is FURTHER AGREED that if Mr. Barhydt acts as a "passive investor," he shall not have the power to elect a majority of key individuals or executive officers, managers, directors, trustees, or other persons exercising managerial authority of a person in control of a licensee; shall not be employed by and does not have any managerial duties of the licensee or person in control of a licensee; and shall not have the power to exercise, directly or indirectly, a controlling influence over the management or policies of a licensee or person in control of a licensee.

It is FURTHER AGREED that if after the five-year period, Mr. Barhydt or any entity for which he acts as an officer or control person applies for licensure, approval of Mr. Barhydt's application or participation in such entity's activities will be subject to any and all licensing requirements of Connecticut in effect at that time. It is FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that Mr. Barhydt shall ensure that any entity he controls or as to which he is a principal that engages, in any capacity, in the conduct of the affairs of any money transmission must be duly licensed in each jurisdiction in which it operates.

It is further AGREED and ORDERED that if Mr. Barhydt does not comply with the agreed upon terms set forth in this Paragraph F, it shall constitute a violation of this Consent Order.

**G.** No Control – Effect of Paragraph F. It is AGREED that Paragraph F is not intended to form the basis for Mr. Barhydt's disqualification from registration as a broker-dealer, securities salesperson, investment adviser, investment adviser representative, or issuer under the laws, rules, and regulations of Connecticut or any other jurisdiction or self-regulatory organization, or to disqualify Mr. Barhydt from relying upon the securities registration exemptions or safe harbor provisions for which Mr. Barhydt may qualify under the laws, rules and regulations of Connecticut or any other jurisdiction or self-regulatory organization.

H. Wallet Addresses. It is AGREED and ORDERED that Plutus and Mr. Barhydt shall continue to make all wallet addresses holding U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets available to Connecticut until all virtual assets are returned pursuant to Paragraphs K and L.

I. Updated Terms of Service. It is AGREED and ACKNOWLEDGED that legal title to all virtual assets in U.S. Trade Customer Accounts, held and maintained by Plutus belong to the U.S. Trade Customer. It is FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that as of June 28, 2024, Plutus 14 Financial, Inc. and Abra Trading, LLC amended and updated its terms of service, and any other terms or conditions of Plutus Financial, Inc. and Abra Trading, LLC's relationship with U.S. Trade Customers of Connecticut to reflect:

1. Title to a U.S. Trade Customer's virtual assets belong to the U.S. Trade Customer.

2. Plutus and Plutus Technologies Philippines Corporation hold virtual assets for U.S. Trade Customers in custody only.

3. Plutus and Plutus Technologies Philippines Corporation have and will keep U.S. Trade Customers' virtual assets segregated and will not commingle, use, pledge, rehypothecate, or lend U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets.

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 Plutus and Plutus Technologies Philippines Corporation will return U.S. Trade Customers' virtual assets in accordance with Paragraphs K and L of this Consent Order.

# J. Return of Customer Assets – Applicability of Securities Orders. It is AGREED and ORDERED that U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets, or U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets converted to fiat (converted assets) transitioned by Plutus pursuant to any agreement or order entered with state securities regulators are subject to the terms of this Consent Order.

K. Return of Customer Assets – Procedure. It is AGREED and ORDERED that Plutus
 shall utilize the procedure described below to return U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets that are (a)
 maintained in Fireblocks Vaults on behalf of U.S. Trade Customers or otherwise under the control of
 Plutus, Plutus Technologies Philippines Corporation, or Digital Capital Solutions Limited and (b)
 owned by U.S. Trade Customers residing in Connecticut.

It is AGREED and ORDERED that Plutus Financial, Inc. and Abra Trading, LLC shall convert the outstanding virtual assets owned by U.S. Trade Customers identified in Attachment A to fiat, and Plutus Financial, Inc. and Abra Trading, LLC shall send a cashier's check or other secure bank instrument to the last known mailing address of the U.S. Trade Customer. Prior to mailing, Plutus Financial, Inc. and Abra Trading, LLC will employ reasonable measures to verify the accuracy of the U.S. Trade Customer's last known mailing address. Checks will be sent within 15 days of the Effective Date and shall be valid for no less than 60 days.

It is FURTHER AGREED that Plutus Financial, Inc. and Abra Trading, LLC shall not be responsible for any claims resulting from loss of value due to the conversion to fiat so long as Plutus Financial, Inc. and Abra Trading, LLC employ reasonable industry accepted procedures for purposes of the conversion. Except as set forth below, Plutus Financial, Inc. and Abra Trading, LLC shall not be responsible for nondelivered checks. 1 It is FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that in the event nondelivered checks are returned 2 to Plutus Financial, Inc. and Abra Trading, LLC or remain uncashed after 90 days, Plutus Financial, Inc. and Abra Trading, LLC shall take the appropriate steps to identify U.S. Trade Customers, amounts 3 owed/owned, and other necessary data, and remit the converted assets to the Connecticut Office of 4 5 Treasurer in accordance with the unclaimed property laws of Connecticut. Plutus Financial, Inc. and 6 Abra Trading, LLC acknowledge and agree that Connecticut's unclaimed property laws may require 7 the converted assets to be held for a longer statutory period in order for the outstanding U.S. Trade Customer converted assets to be considered abandoned. 8

9 L. Return of Customer Assets – Conflicting Orders. It is AGREED and ORDERED
10 that in the event that the state securities regulator in Connecticut has entered into a Term Sheet or
11 Consent Order (a "Prior Securities Agreement") that requires Plutus and/or Mr. Barhydt to return
12 U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets held in Abra Trade Accounts, in a manner that is inconsistent with
13 the procedure elected by the Commissioner in Paragraph K of this Consent Order, Plutus and
14 Mr. Barhydt shall:

- 1. Return all U.S. Trade Customer virtual asset balances consistent with the Prior Securities Agreement entered into with the Connecticut securities regulator; and
- 2. Return all remaining U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets, one cent and above, in the manner elected by the Commissioner pursuant to Paragraph K. The Commissioner may consider the procedure elected in the Prior Securities Agreement. However, the Commissioner is not bound by the procedure elected in the Prior Securities Agreement, and may use the procedure elected in Paragraph K.

It is FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that in the event that the state securities regulator in Connecticut enters into a Prior Securities Agreement that requires Plutus and/or Mr. Barhydt to return U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets held in Abra Trade Accounts prior to the Effective Date, in

a manner that is only inconsistent regarding the threshold for the amount to be returned, Plutus and/or

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Mr. Barhydt shall return all remaining U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets according to the procedure
 elected in Paragraph K.

M. Return of Customer Assets – Reporting. It is AGREED and ORDERED that Plutus Financial, Inc. and Abra Trading, LLC shall provide to Swarupa Madhavan, Paralegal, Consumer Credit Division, Department of Banking, 260 Constitution Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut 06103-1800 or swarupa.madhavan@ct.gov a breakdown of U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets and converted assets held by Plutus to include customer level data on November 30, 2024, December 31, 2024 and January 31, 2024 and quarterly thereafter until Plutus are no longer holding virtual assets or converted assets on behalf of U.S. Trade Customers in Connecticut. It is FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this term shall be deemed fulfilled upon completion of the process elected pursuant to Paragraphs K and L of this Consent Order.

**N. Return of Customer Assets – No New Entities.** It is AGREED and ORDERED that Plutus and Mr. Barhydt shall not engage any entity not previously identified in the process of returning virtual assets to U.S. Trade Customers.

O. Return of Customer Assets – Sufficient Funds Attestation. It is AGREED and ORDERED the signed attestation of Plutus and Mr. Barhydt stating Plutus holds virtual assets on behalf of U.S. Trade Customers sufficient to facilitate and fulfill withdrawals of all such virtual assets belonging to all such U.S. Trade Customers residing in Connecticut, Attachment B, is incorporated as part of this Consent Order. It is FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that it is a violation of this Consent Order, if it is determined that any part of the attestation, at the time the attestation was executed, was false.

P. Return of Virtual Assets – Personal Guarantee. It is AGREED and ORDERED that Mr. Barhydt shall personally and unconditionally guarantee that Plutus have the ability to facilitate

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and fulfill withdrawals of all U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets. It is FURTHER AGREED and
 ORDERED that if Plutus do not fulfill withdrawals of all U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets,
 Mr. Barhydt shall be personally liable for the return of all U.S. Trade Customer virtual assets
 withdrawals not fulfilled. It is FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this term shall be deemed
 fulfilled upon completion of the process elected pursuant to Paragraphs K and L of this Consent
 Order.

7 Q. Public Statements – Factual Basis. It is AGREED and ORDERED that Plutus and Mr. Barhydt shall not take any action or make or permit to be made any public statement, including 8 9 in regulatory filings, any proceeding in any forum or otherwise, denying, directly or indirectly, any 10 allegation referenced in this Consent Order or create the impression that the Consent Order is without 11 factual basis. It is FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that except as specifically provided herein, 12 Plutus and Mr. Barhydt shall not take any position in any proceeding brought by or on behalf of the Commissioner, or to which the Commissioner is a party, that is inconsistent with any part of this 13 14 Consent Order. It is FURTHER AGREED that nothing in this provision affects Plutus' and 15 Mr. Barhydt's (i) testimonial obligations, or (ii) right to take legal or factual positions that may contradict an allegation in the Consent Order in litigation or other legal proceedings in which the 16 17 Commissioner is not a party.

**R. Customer Identification Procedures and Policy.** It is AGREED and ORDERED that Plutus shall implement and maintain adequate identification verification procedures and policies to ensure that it does not provide money transmission products or services to customers of Connecticut unless and until such time Plutus or are appropriately licensed to offer such money transmission products or services to customers of Connecticut.

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1 It is FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that Plutus shall clearly and conspicuously 2 state on their mobile application and website, or any third-party services that Plutus do not provide 3 money transmission products and services to customers of Connecticut S. Civil Penalty. It is AGREED and ORDERED that Plutus and Mr. Barhydt shall jointly 4 and severally pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$250,000 (Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars). 5 6 It is FURTHER AGREED that \$250,000 of the civil penalty is stayed (Stayed Civil Penalty) for five 7 years subject to full compliance by Plutus and Mr. Barhydt with this Consent Order. 8 It is FURTHER AGREED that the stay may be lifted and the Stayed Civil Penalty 9 imposed in accordance with the terms stated in Paragraph T. Absent any action by the Commissioner 10 to lift the Stayed Civil Penalty pursuant to Paragraph T, Plutus' and Mr. Barhydt's obligation to pay the Stayed Civil Penalty shall be vacated five years from the Effective Date without further action or 11 12 notice by the Commissioner. T. Lifting of Stay and Imposing Stayed Civil Penalty. It is AGREED that: 13 If the Commissioner determines that Plutus or Mr. Barhydt have not 14 1. complied with the terms of this Consent Order, and the Commissioner 15 accordingly seeks to lift the stay and impose the Stayed Civil Penalty set forth in Paragraph S above, the Department will first notify Plutus or Mr. Barhydt in writing of its determination. 16 17 2. The Department's notification will include: 18 A description of the alleged noncompliance; a) A statement that because of the noncompliance, the Commissioner seeks 19 b) to lift the stay and impose the Stayed Civil Penalty; and 20 An opportunity for Plutus and Mr. Barhydt to meet and confer with the c) Commissioner concerning the alleged noncompliance; 21 Any civil penalty imposed shall be remitted by wire transfer, cashier's 22 3. check, certified check or money order, made payable to "Treasurer, State of Connecticut", no later than forty-five (45) days after the 23 15 24

Commissioner has provided Plutus and Mr. Barhydt an opportunity to meet and confer concerning the allegation. Plutus and Mr. Barhydt knowingly, willfully and voluntarily waive any right to an administrative notice and an opportunity for a hearing set forth in the Connecticut Uniform Administrative Procedure Act and any right to seek judicial review of such penalties. Furthermore, such penalties shall be in addition to any other remedies that the Commissioner may seek for a violation by Plutus or Mr. Barhydt of this Consent Order or any provision of the general statutes or any regulation within the jurisdiction of the Commissioner

U. Limited Use – Liability, Defenses and Private Rights of Action. It is AGREED that this Consent Order is not intended to be used for any other purpose or to resolve any claims under any other state or federal law. Other than the obligations and provisions set forth herein, this agreement does not limit or create liability for Plutus and Mr. Barhydt, nor limit or create defenses for Plutus and Mr. Barhydt to any claims. It is FURTHER AGREED that this Consent Order does not give rise to or limit any private rights of action.

V. Applicability. It is AGREED that this Consent Order is entered into solely for the purpose of resolving the above referenced multistate investigation with respect to unlicensed money transmission activity committed by Plutus and Mr. Barhydt between March 2021 to June of 2023 only. It is FURTHER AGREED that this Consent Order does not extend to any potential unlicensed money transmission activity of Abra Boost, Plutus Technologies Philippines Corporation, and Digital Capital Solutions Limited. It is FURTHER AGREED that this Consent Order does not extend to any ongoing or future money transmission activities, except for money transmission activity undertaken in accordance with Paragraphs K and L of this Consent Order.

W. Other Investigations. It is AGREED that this Consent Order shall constitute a full and final resolution of the MTRA Working Group investigation and the Order and Notice. It is FURTHER AGREED that the Commissioner, will not file any enforcement action for violations or

potential violations of money transmission statutes enforced by the Commissioner with respect to the
 facts and circumstances that were the subject of the MTRA Working Group investigation described
 herein as it relates to Plutus and Mr. Barhydt. It is FURTHER AGREED that this provision in no
 way limits Connecticut's authority to file any other enforcement action in the event Plutus or
 Mr. Barhydt do not comply with all terms of this Consent Order.

X. Change of Contact Information. It is AGREED and ORDERED that for the duration of the period this Consent Order is in effect, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Commissioner,
Plutus and Mr. Barhydt shall provide the Department with a mailing address, telephone number, and
e-mail address at which they can be contacted. It is FURTHER AGREED that Plutus and
Mr. Barhydt shall notify the Department in writing of any changes to their mailing address or
telephone number within 15 days of any such change.

Y. Non-Compliance with Order. It is AGREED that Plutus and Mr. Barhydt understand that failure to abide by the terms and conditions of this Consent Order may result in further legal action by the Commissioner. In the event of such legal action, Plutus and Mr. Barhydt may be responsible to reimburse the Commissioner for the cost incurred in pursuing such action, including but not limited to, attorney fees.

Z. Voluntarily Entered. It is AGREED that Plutus and Mr. Barhydt have voluntarily entered into this Consent Order, which is effective when signed by the Commissioner (the Effective Date).

AA. Binding Agreement. It is AGREED that this Consent Order shall be binding upon
Plutus and Mr. Barhydt and their successors and assigns.

**BB.** Reporting. It is AGREED that Plutus and Mr. Barhydt acknowledge that thisConsent Order is a public record and is a reportable event for the purposes of NMLS, as applicable.

1	CC. Completely Read, Understood, and Agreed. It is AGREED that Plutus and		
2	Mr. Barhydt have read this Consent Order in its entirety and fully understand and agree to all of the		
3	same, acknowledge that they have had the opportunity to consult with and be represented by		
4	independent counsel in negotiating and reviewing this Consent Order and executes this Consent		
5	Order freely.		
6	DD.	Authority to Execute Order. It is AGREED	that the undersigned have represented
7	and warranted that they have the full power and right to execute this Consent Order on behalf of the		
8	parties represented.		
9	EE.	Counterparts. This Consent Order may be ex	ecuted in any number of counterparts,
10	including by facsimile or e-mail of a .pdf or similar file, each of which shall be deemed to be an		
11	original, but all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same Consent Order.		
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13	<b>RESPONDE</b> By:	NTS:	
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15	$\frac{/s/}{\text{Authorized Re}}$	epresentative of Plutus Financial, Inc.	<u>November 20, 2024</u> Date
16		William Barhydt, CEO	
17	/s/		November 20, 2024
18		epresentative of Abra Trading, LLC William Barhydt, CEO	Date
19	<u>/s/</u>		November 20, 2024
20		epresentative of Plutus Financial Holdings, Inc. William Barhydt, CEO	Date
21	/s/		November 20, 2024
22		epresentative of Plutus Lending, LLC William Barhydt, CEO	Date
23			
24		18	

<u>/s/</u> iam John Barhydt e(s)	<u>November 20, 2024</u> Date	
	DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE	
THIS ORDER ENTERED THIS <u>21st</u> DAY OF November, 2024.		
	<u>/s/</u>	
	<u>/s/</u> Jorge L. Perez Banking Commissioner	
	10	
	19	