

ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

Fenix International Limited v. Quentine Bacon Case No. D2023-4967

1. The Parties

Complainant is Fenix International Limited c/o Walters Law Group, United States of America ("United States").

Respondent is Quentine Bacon, United States.

2. The Domain Names and Registrar

The disputed domain names, <doeshaveonlyfans.com>, <onlyfanslink.com>, <onlyfansnuds.com>, and <onlyfanswatch.com> (the "Domain Names"), are registered with NameCheap, Inc. (the "Registrar").

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the "Center") on November 28, 2023. On November 29, 2023, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrar a request for registrar verification in connection with the Domain Names. On November 29, 2023, the Registrar transmitted by email to the Center its verification response disclosing registrant and contact information for the Domain Names which differed from the named Respondent (Redacted for Privacy, Privacy service provided by Withheld for Privacy ehf) and contact information in the Complaint. The Center sent an email to Complainant on December 4, 2023, providing the registrant and contact information disclosed by the Registrar, and inviting Complainant to submit an amendment to the Complaint. Complainant filed an amendment to the Complaint on December 4, 2023.

The Center verified that the Complaint together with the amendment to the Complaint satisfied the formal requirements of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Policy" or "UDRP"), the Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Rules"), and the WIPO Supplemental Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Supplemental Rules").

In accordance with the Rules, paragraphs 2 and 4, the Center formally notified Respondent of the Complaint, and the proceedings commenced on December 7, 2023. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5, the due date for Response was December 27, 2023. Respondent did not submit any response. Accordingly, the Center notified Respondent's default on January 8, 2024.

The Center appointed Robert A. Badgley as the sole panelist in this matter on January 15, 2024. The Panel finds that it was properly constituted. The Panel has submitted the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence, as required by the Center to ensure compliance with the Rules, paragraph 7.

4. Factual Background

Since 2016, Complainant has operated a website at the domain name <onlyfans.com> to host a platform for subscribers to view and post audiovisual content. The website states: "Sign up to support your favorite creators."

According to Complainant, the <onlyfans.com> website is one of the most popular websites in the world, and Complainant has 180 million subscribers. By one Internet ranking service, the site is ranked 94th in the world in terms of traffic.

Complainant holds several registered trademarks for ONLYFANS and ONLYFANS.COM. For instance, Complainant holds with the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") Reg. No. 5,769,267 for ONLYFANS, registered on June 4, 2019, in connection with "arranging the subscriptions of the online publications of others," with a date of first use in commerce of July 4, 2016. Complainant also holds USPTO Reg. No. 5,769,268 for ONLYFANS.COM, registered on June 4, 2019, and also in connection with "arranging the subscriptions of the online publications of others," with a date of first use in commerce of July 4, 2016. Complainant also holds European Union Reg. No. 017912377 for ONLYFANS, registered on January 9, 2019, in connection with, among other things, "online subscription services for the purpose of allowing individuals to subscribe and access content uploaded by members of the service for sporting, fitness and entertainment purposes."

The Domain Names were registered on June 7, 2023. The Domain Names resolve to nearly identical websites which, according to October 10, 2023 screenshots annexed to the Complaint, offer adult entertainment content. The sites boast that they feature "OnlyFans Models Leaked." According to Complainant, Respondent's websites "offer adult entertainment services (including watermarked content pirated from Complainant's users) in direct competition with Complainant's services."

Complainant alleges further:

"All four Disputed Domain Names were registered via the same registrar within seconds of each other, and each domain references the full ONLYFANS Mark. Additionally, the websites at each Disputed Domain Name are similarly designed, with the sites providing a large table of OnlyFans creator profiles and images bearing watermarks with Complainant's onlyfans.com URL."

The websites bear a small disclaimer stating that they are not affiliated with Fenix International Limited (Complainant in this proceeding) or <onlyfans.com>.

On September 12, 2023, Complainant's counsel sent a separate cease-and-desist letter for each of the four Domain Names to the Registrar (Respondent used a privacy service). Complainant received no substantive response to these letters.

5. Parties' Contentions

A. Complainant

Complainant contends that it has satisfied each of the elements required under the Policy for a transfer of the Domain Names.

B. Respondent

Respondent did not reply to Complainant's contentions, and it is undisputed that Respondent is the registrant of each of the four Domain Names.

6. Discussion and Findings

Paragraph 4(a) of the Policy lists the three elements which Complainant must satisfy with respect to each of the Domain Names:

- (i) the Domain Name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark in which Complainant has rights; and
- (ii) Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the Domain Name; and
- (iii) the Domain Name has been registered and is being used in bad faith.

A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

It is well accepted that the first element functions primarily as a standing requirement. The standing (or threshold) test for confusing similarity involves a reasoned but relatively straightforward comparison between Complainant's trademark and the Domain Names. WIPO Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Selected UDRP Questions, Third Edition, ("WIPO Overview 3.0"), section 1.7.

The Panel concludes that Complainant has rights in the trademark ONLYFANS through registration and use demonstrated in the record. The Panel also concludes that the Domain Names are confusingly similar to that mark. The Domain Names entirely incorporate the ONLYFANS mark and add the words "does have", "watch", "link", or "nuds". The Panel concludes that the mark remains clearly recognizable within the Domain Names despite these additional words. See Fenix International Limited v. Tony Lear, midieast corp., WIPO Case No. D2021-1304 (transferring <modelsofonlyfans.com>).

Complainant has established Policy paragraph 4(a)(i).

B. Rights or Legitimate Interests

For each of the Domain Names, pursuant to paragraph 4(c) of the Policy, Respondent may establish its rights or legitimate interests in the Domain Name, among other circumstances, by showing any of the following elements:

- (i) before any notice to you [Respondent] of the dispute, your use of, or demonstrable preparations to use, the Domain Name or a name corresponding to the Domain Name in connection with a *bona fide* offering of goods or services; or
- (ii) you [Respondent] (as an individual, business, or other organization) have been commonly known by the Domain Name, even if you have acquired no trademark or service mark rights; or
- (iii) you [Respondent] are making a legitimate noncommercial or fair use of the Domain Name, without intent for commercial gain to misleadingly divert consumers or to tarnish the trademark or service mark at issue.

Although the overall burden of proof in UDRP proceedings is on the complainant, panels have recognized that proving a respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in a domain name may result in the difficult task of "proving a negative", requiring information often primarily within the knowledge or control of the respondent. Thus, where a complainant makes out a *prima facie* case that the respondent lacks rights or

legitimate interests, the burden of production shifts to the respondent to come forward with relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the domain name (although the burden of proof always remains on the complainant). If the respondent fails to come forward with such relevant evidence, the complainant is deemed to have satisfied the second element. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 2.1. The Panel concludes that Respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in connection with the Domain Names. Respondent has not come forward, either in response to the cease-and-desist letter or in response to the Complaint in this proceeding, to articulate any bona fide reason for registering the Domain Names. Based on the undisputed record in this case, the Panel finds that Respondent clearly targeted Complainant's mark to create a commercial website seeking to divert, for financial gain, users seeking Complainant's website. The disclaimer does not shield the Respondent from an adverse finding, particularly since such disclaimer can only be found at the bottom of the websites, after scrolling through content referencing the Complainant's trademark, and fails to adequately identify the owner of the websites and explain the relationship to the Complainant. Complainant's mark is well-known, the services provided at Respondent's site are similar to Complainant's services, and it is plausibly alleged and undisputed that Respondent has pirated content from Complainant's site. Such conduct does not permit a finding that Respondent has rights or legitimate interests vis-à-vis the Domain Names.

Complainant has established Policy paragraph 4(a)(ii).

C. Registered and Used in Bad Faith

For each of the Domain Names, paragraph4(b) of the Policy provides that the following circumstances, "in particular but without limitation," are evidence of the registration and use of the Domain Name in "bad faith":

- (i) circumstances indicating that Respondent has registered or has acquired the Domain Name primarily for the purpose of selling, renting, or otherwise transferring the Domain Name registration to Complainant who is the owner of the trademark or service mark or to a competitor of that Complainant, for valuable consideration in excess of its documented out of pocket costs directly related to the Domain Name; or
- (ii) that Respondent has registered the Domain Name in order to prevent the owner of the trademark or service mark from reflecting the mark in a corresponding domain name, provided that Respondent has engaged in a pattern of such conduct; or
- (iii) that Respondent has registered the Domain Name primarily for the purpose of disrupting the business of a competitor; or
- (iv) that by using the Domain Name, Respondent has intentionally attempted to attract, for commercial gain, Internet users to Respondent's website or other online location, by creating a likelihood of confusion with Complainant's mark as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation, or endorsement of Respondent's website or location or of a product or service on Respondent's website or location.

The Panel concludes that Respondent registered and used the Domain Names in bad faith under the Policy. The Panel incorporates its discussion above in the "Rights or Legitimate Interests" section. On this record, the Panel finds it clear that Respondent targeted Complainant's mark when registering the Domain Names, and has used the Domain Names for illegitimate commercial gain by seeking to divert Internet traffic for commercial gain by free-riding on Complainant's well-known mark. This constitutes bad faith registration and use within the meaning of the above-quoted Policy paragraph 4(b)(iv). The presence of the disclaimer does not prevent such finding but rather, the Panel finds the presence of such disclaimer as an admission that Internet users are likely to be confused by the confusingly similar disputed domain names that also reflect the Complainant's trademark and associated services on the websites' content to which the Domain Names resolve. Moreover, given the simultaneous registration of four Domain Names, the Panel finds that the Respondent's conduct also amounts to registration and use in bad faith as envisioned under paragraph 4(b)(ii) of the Policy.

Complainant has established Policy paragraph 4(a)(iii).

7. Decision

For the foregoing reasons, in accordance with paragraphs 4(i) of the Policy and 15 of the Rules, the Panel orders that the Domain Names <doeshaveonlyfans.com>, <onlyfanslink.com>, <onlyfansnuds.com>, and <onlyfanswatch.com>, be transferred to Complainant.

/Robert A. Badgley/ Robert A. Badgley Sole Panelist

Date: January 17, 2024