

Kristjansson Gudmundur  
 Form 4  
 December 26, 2018

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL  
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**Kristjansson Gudmundur**  
  
 (Last) (First) (Middle)  
**C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC., 350 PARK AVENUE, 20TH FLOOR**  
  
 (Street)  
**NEW YORK, NY 10022**  
  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**MFA FINANCIAL, INC. [MFA]**  
  
 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**12/21/2018**  
  
 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
  
 (Check all applicable)  
 \_\_\_ Director \_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
**Senior Vice President**  
  
 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 \_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
Common Stock	12/21/2018		A	(1) 65,486	\$ 0	(2) 271,929.504	D
Common Stock	12/21/2018		F	(3) 34,852	\$ 6.61	237,077.504	D

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

Table with columns: 1. Title of Derivative Security, 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security, 3. Transaction Date, 3A. Deemed Execution Date, 4. Transaction Code, 5. Number of Derivative Securities, 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date, 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities, 8. Price of Derivative Security, 9. Number of Derivative Securities.

Reporting Owners

Table with columns: Reporting Owner Name / Address, Relationships (Director, 10% Owner, Officer, Other). Entry for Kristjansson Gudmundur, C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC., 350 PARK AVENUE, 20TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10022, Senior Vice President.

Signatures

/s/ Gudmundur Kristjansson 12/26/2018
Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
(1) The shares acquired by the Reporting Person were received as a portion of the Reporting Person's annual incentive compensation and are fully vested as of the date of grant. The net shares acquired (i.e., net of the surrender of a portion of the shares acquired in order to satisfy tax obligations (as described in Note 3 below)) are subject to a three-year holding period and may not be sold or otherwise transferred prior to December 21, 2021.
(2) Includes 118.504 shares acquired under the dividend reinvestment feature of the MFA Financial, Inc. Discount Waiver, Direct Stock Purchase and Dividend Reinvestment Plan.
(3) The reported disposition represents the surrender of shares to satisfy tax obligations arising from the receipt by the Reporting Person of the shares described in Note 1 above.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.