

## DIRK KEMPTHORNE Governor

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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## Investors: "International Regulator" Looks Dubious International Firm Using Address of Local Homeowner

Boise, Idaho . . . Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, today announced the Department's investigation of the International Securities Verification Center (ISVC), an alleged international securities regulator that claims to operate from Boise, Idaho.

According to the ISVC website, the firm "is responsible for regulating and examining the activities of key participants in the securities industry," is "concerned with ensuring an appropriate regulatory environment to protect investors," and "enforce[s] the international securities laws." The website states that ISVC operates from its "Central Office" located on East Riverpark Lane in Boise, Idaho.

Information provided to the Department indicates that ISVC is associated with cold-call solicitations that seek to repurchase from shareholders near-worthless securities at prices significantly higher than the current value of the stock. Solicited shareholders are referred to ISVC to verify the legitimacy of the offer or to validate or collect a fee charged to remove any restrictions on the resale of the shares.

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Gee noted several red flags associated with these suspicious offerings:

- Although the Idaho address used by the company does exist, it is a residence and the homeowners are not associated with ISVC. In addition to the Department's investigation, the homeowners have received an official regulatory inquiry from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.
- 2. Generally speaking, share "restrictions" are seldom in place if the securities originally purchased were bought in the open markets through recognized exchanges.
- 3. If share restrictions do exist, such restrictions are normally removed through the issuer's transfer agent not an "international regulatory body".

"What we appear to have is not a true regulatory body but a conduit to grab cash from unsuspecting investors," said Gee. "Anyone thinking of doing business with this firm should be extremely skeptical until ISVC's actual location can be determined and it can be verified that the company is truly a regulatory authority with enforcement powers."

Any Idaho residents having information about ISVC's dealings are asked to contact the Department of Finance at (208) 332-8080.

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Department of Finance Press Releases and other information can be found on the Internet via the worldwide web at <a href="http://finance.idaho.gov">http://finance.idaho.gov</a> and may be obtained by contacting the Department at (208) 332-8080 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.