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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF "OPERATION COLLECTION PROTECTION"

Boise, Idaho ....Today the Idaho Department of Finance announced its participation in "Operation Collection Protection" (OCP), a coalition of federal, state, and local enforcement and regulatory organizations committed to working cooperatively and devoting greater resources to address illegal debt collection practices. In addition to the Department more than 73 organizations participated in OCP, including the Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Department of Justice, 47 state attorneys general and the District of Columbia, 17 state regulatory agencies, one Canadian provincial regulatory agency, and a number of local authorities. As a result, the agencies have announced more than 115 actions against illegal debt collection operations taken since the first of the year. These actions include filings in state and federal court, administrative consent agreements, cease and desist orders, and license revocations. Many of these actions were taken jointly by OCP participants.

Committed to the enforcement of Idaho's collection laws, the Department took five administrative actions against unlicensed debt collectors, which included four administrative consent orders and one order to cease and desist from collection activities against Idaho consumers. Director Gavin Gee stated, "Unlicensed debt collection activity can be harmful to consumers, creditors and the credit services market. Unlicensed entities attempting to collect invalid debt or otherwise failing to comply with Idaho law can cause significant financial hardship for consumers. Moreover, even where a debt may be valid, illegal collection activities negatively impact those agencies who comply with Idaho law."

Gee also reminds Idahoans that, "Whether you're a consumer receiving collection calls or a business attempting to find a third-party debt collector to assist in recovering on overdue accounts, you can always contact the Idaho Department of Finance to determine if a collection agency is licensed or to report unscrupulous and unlicensed collection attempts."

In addition to these announced actions, a number of agencies have taken non-public actions to correct problems occurring within their jurisdictions to assure the companies involved are following the law. A link to the information on OCP participants and the actions taken by those agencies can be found on the Department's website at [www.finance.idaho.gov](http://www.finance.idaho.gov).

Also on its website under "[Financial Literacy](#)," the Department provides educational brochures related to the debt collection process. Idahoans may peruse brochure topics that include the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, debt collection Q&A brochure, as well as a sample debt collection response letter. The Department also provides a variety of informational brochures on topics such as credit repair, debt settlement, and how to dispute credit reporting errors.

*Consumers can obtain information about financial firms, professionals or products, as well as view more Department press releases and other information on the Internet at <http://finance.idaho.gov> or by contacting the Department at (208) 332-8000 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.*