

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR



GAVIN M. GEE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
700 W. STATE STREET, 2ND FLOOR
P. O. BOX 83720
BOISE ID 83720-0031
Website: finance.state.id.us

Contact: Michael Larsen
Bureau Chief
Consumer Finance Bureau
(208) 332-8060

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE OBTAINS INJUNCTION AGAINST
COMPANY FOR UNLICENSED COLLECTION ACTIVITY**

BOISE, IDAHO...Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance announced that the Honorable James J. May, District Judge of the Fifth Judicial District in Blaine County, Idaho, has entered a judgment against a New Jersey corporation, Check Investors, Inc., doing business in Idaho under the name "National Check Control." The order resolves a lawsuit filed by the Department under the Idaho Collection Agency Act.

"The Idaho Department of Finance filed this action on behalf of Idaho consumers to halt a scheme whereby National Check Control's representatives threatened criminal action against Idaho residents unless they immediately paid amounts that the consumers did not owe. National Check Control's tactics were among the most abusive and aggressive we've seen," said Gee.

Gee reminded Idaho consumers that they have an obligation to pay their debts. However, collection agencies must deal openly, fairly, and honestly, and only with a license, when collecting debts in Idaho. "Legitimate collection agencies do not use lies and harassment techniques in their collection activities," said Gee.

Banks & Savings Banks (208) 332-8005
Credit Unions (208) 332-8003
Securities (208) 332-8004
Money Transmitters (208) 332-8004

PHONE: (208) 332-8000
FAX: (208) 332-8098
Director's Fax: (208) 332-8097
Securities Fax: (208) 332-8099

Supporting Services (208) 332-8001
Mortgage Companies (208) 332-8002
Finance Companies (208) 332-8002
Collection Agencies (208) 332-8002

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

According to Gee, National Check Control bought bad checks at discounts from commercial retailers. It then engaged in unlawful attempts to collect on the checks – some of which had already been paid by the consumer and many of which were more than two years old. National Check Control would commonly demand immediate payment of a total sum that included the face value of the returned check and additional fees of up to \$130, regardless of the amount of the original check. Idaho law limits the amount a debt-collector can charge for a returned check to \$20 per check.

“The Department encourages legitimate collection activity while consistently ensuring that appropriate enforcement action is taken against unauthorized activity,” said Gee. The Idaho Department of Finance reminds residents that they may contact the Department if they have questions concerning the activities of collection agencies, including whether the agency is properly licensed. Consumers can contact the Department at (208) 332-8002, or toll free within Idaho at 1-888-346-3378, or at its website, www.idahofinance.com.

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Department of Finance press releases and other information are available on the Internet via the world wide web at www.idahofinance.com and may be obtained by contacting the Department at (208) 332-8000, or toll-free in Idaho at 1-888-346-3378.