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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MIDDLETON RESIDENT SUED FOR DEFRAUDING IDAHO INVESTORS

Idaho Department of Finance Seeks Return of Approximately \$2.3 Million of Investor Funds

Boise, Idaho . . . The Idaho Department of Finance has filed a complaint in Ada County District Court against Gerald Silence, Wise Enterprises, LLC and Wise Lending LLC. Shauna Silence is named as a relief defendant for receiving ill-gotten gains. The defendants operated from Middleton and Boise. The defendants allegedly raised approximately \$2.3 million from at least 16 investors and offered annual rates of return in the range of 12% to 15%. The department's complaint alleges violations of the registration and anti-fraud provisions of Idaho's Uniform Securities Act.

The department alleges that Silence misrepresented to investors that their money would be used to fund bridge loans and other short-term loans, and that loans he extended would be secured. The department's complaint also alleges that Silence:

- misrepresented to investors that their investment principal would be returned at any time upon request;
- misrepresented to investors that they would be repaid their investment principal and investment return as reflected in promissory notes provided by Silence;
- failed to inform investors that he would use their investment funds to repay other investors;
- failed to inform investors that investor moneys would be used for Silence's and his wife's personal benefit; and
- failed to inform investors that neither he nor the securities he offered were registered with the Department as required by Idaho law.

The department's suit seeks a court order permanently enjoining Silence from further violations of Idaho's Uniform Securities Act and seeks to place restrictions on future business activities. Additionally, the department seeks investor restitution of approximately \$2.3 million, civil penalties, attorney fees and costs of the suit.

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The Idaho Department of Finance cautions all investors to investigate before you invest. Department of Finance press releases and a copy of the civil complaint can be found on the Internet at <http://finance.idaho.gov> or may be obtained by contacting the Department at (208) 332-8004 or toll-free at (888) 346-3378.

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