



IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GAVIN M. GEE
Director

Contact:

Jim Burns, Investigations Chief
Securities Bureau
(208) 332-8080

CONSUMER ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2012

Own a Timeshare in Mexico? Be Wary of Unlicensed Internet Escrow Companies

(Boise) – Gavin Gee, director of the Idaho Department of Finance, warned consumers and escrow and real estate industry members today to exercise caution when dealing with **Thompson's Title Holding Service's** (sic), a purported on-line escrow company found at www.thompsonsths.com. Thompson's Title Holding Service's claims to be located at a Boise, Idaho, address. Owners of the building located at that address have no knowledge of Thompson's. Thompson's Title Holding Service's is not licensed by the department as an escrow company nor as any other financial service provider.

Thompson's Title Holding Service's appears to be working with **Trimble Vacation Properties** purportedly located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The department has confirmed that no business by that name is located at the Oklahoma City address used by Trimble Vacation Properties. Thompson's also appears to work with **Corporate Resort Consultants** which claims to operate from Omaha, Nebraska, but is not found at the given address.

Gee explained that, "While facts continue to be gathered, it appears that owners of timeshare units in Mexico are contacted by Trimble or Corporate Resort Consultants claiming to have a buyer for their timeshare unit and asking if the owner is interested in selling. Thompson's Title Holding Service's sends account information to the owner, leading owners to believe funds have been received from a purchaser and are being held in escrow. The owner is then required to pay taxes and transfer fees by wiring funds equal to 27% of the sales price to a bank in Mexico. Owners are told this fee will be refunded at the closing of the transaction."

The department asks any person who has been contacted by either of these companies to call the department at 208-332-8080 or toll free within Idaho at 1-888-346-3378.

The department issued a nearly identical warning followed by an order to cease and desist in July 2012. The companies involved in that order were **All Net Escrow** and **Castle Wealth Management** (not associated with investment firm Castle Wealth Management in Florida.)

Department of Finance Press Releases and other information can be found on the Internet at <http://finance.idaho.gov> and may be obtained by contacting the department at (208) 332-8000 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.