

NEWS RELEASE
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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REFUNDS ORDERED IN FOREIGN CURRENCY TRADING CASE: California Promoter Told To Cease Violations

Boise, Idaho . . . Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, announced that the Honorable Thomas F. Neville, District Judge of the Fourth Judicial District in Boise, Idaho, has entered judgment and a permanent injunction against William D. Atkins II, and his purported Nevada corporation, Morgan Sterling Currency Exchange, Inc., both of Venice, California. The lawsuit stemmed from the defendants' offer and sale of a purported investment opportunity in off-exchange foreign currency trading. The Court's Order was entered after both defendants failed to defend themselves in the State's action.

The original complaint alleged that the defendants violated both the Idaho Securities Act and the Idaho Commodity Code by their promotion and sale of an investment in "off-exchange" foreign currency trading.

In part, the suit alleged that the defendants:

- a) violated the registration and anti-fraud provisions of the Idaho Securities Act,
- b) engaged in commodities transactions in violation of the Idaho Commodity Code,
- c) omitted to provide pertinent information regarding the defendants and the investment including:

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- failing to inform investors that their investment monies would be deposited into an account personally owned and controlled by Atkins.
 - failing to inform investors that their investment monies might be held and applied towards Atkin's own personal and business expenses; and
- d) made fraudulent representations regarding the defendants, the investment, and the risks associated with the investment.

The Court's order finds that the defendants violated the Idaho Securities Act and enjoins Atkins and his company from offering or selling unregistered securities, offering or selling securities through unregistered salespersons, and engaging in misrepresentations or omissions in connection with the offer, sale or purchase of a security. The Court also ordered that the defendants repay affected Idaho investors and awarded the State \$5,000 in attorney's fees and costs.

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