

GAVIN M. GEE Director

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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COURT ISSUES PERMANENT INJUNCTION AGAINST BANNOCK COLLECTIONS, INC.

Owners Also Ordered to Pay Nearly \$106,000 in Victim Restitution

Boise, Idaho . . . Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, announced that the Honorable Peter McDermott, District Judge for the District Court in Bannock County entered a Stipulated Judgment and Permanent Injunction against Bannock Collections, Inc., and its owners, William and Thelma Newbry. The Idaho Department of Finance had filed suit against the collection agency and its owners based on evidence that the owners of the business misappropriated trust funds that belonged to their clients.

The Judgment orders Bannock Collections and the Newbrys to pay \$105,965.00 in restitution to the clients of Bannock Collections. The restitution is to be paid to the Bannock County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in conjunction with criminal proceedings that were filed against the Newbrys by the Bannock County Prosecuting Attorney. Thelma Newbry pled guilty to a misdemeanor and was granted a withheld judgment with two years' probation. William Newbry pled guilty to a felony and was granted a withheld judgment and four years' probation. The Newbrys were also ordered to pay restitution to their former customers whose money had been held in trust by Bannock Collections, Inc.

The Judgment entered against Bannock Collections and the Newbrys permanently enjoins them from acts or practices which violate the Idaho Financial Fraud Prevention Act and the Idaho Collection Agency Act. Bannock Collections and its owners are also ordered to cease the operation of Bannock Collections and to return all client accounts, documents, judgments, and other property belonging to Bannock Collections' clients.

Gavin Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, stated: "I appreciate the efforts of the Bannock County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, as well as the investigative efforts of my staff. I'm very pleased that restitution orders have been put in place in favor of the victims in this case." Gee said that most of the victims were individuals and businesses in Bannock County who had contracted with Bannock Collections, Inc. to collect delinquent accounts.

Department of Finance press releases and other information are available on the Internet via the world wide web at <u>http://finance.state.id.us</u> and may be obtained by contacting the Department at (208) 332-8000, or toll-free in Idaho at 1-888-346-3378.

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